



Edition  
256

CATFIELD NEWS  
Your village magazine  
March 2025



## CATFIELD NEWS *Contacts*

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

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

*Please address your envelope to Catfield News*

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

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

**and the Waterside Group website**

**[www.watersidegroup.org.uk](http://www.watersidegroup.org.uk)**

## Useful Local Contacts

**Village Hall Booking Clerk** - Elaine Smith 01692 580056  
elainesmith364@btinternet.com

**Catfield United Charities** - Trustees 01692 660250  
[enquiries@catfieldunitedcharities.uk](mailto:enquiries@catfieldunitedcharities.uk)

**Catfield Primary Academy** - Lucy Amis, Senior Teacher  
01692 580568  
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**Priest in Charge of The Waterside Benefice** - Rev'd. Gary Noyes  
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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](http://www.staithesurgery.co.uk) 01692 582000

#### **Surgery Hours**

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm

#### **Dispensary Hours**

Monday to Friday 8.45am - 5.30pm

Closed for lunch each day 12.30pm - 1.30pm

### **Ludham Surgery**

[www.ludhamsurgery.nhs.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk)

02072197585

#### **Local County Councillor**

Richard Carey Price

07880791258 (work hours)

[Richard.price.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.price.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk)

#### **Local District Councillors**

Kevin Terrance Bayes

[kevin.bayes@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.bayes@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

Matthew Taylor 07557097597

[matthew.taylor@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.taylor@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

#### **Local Police**

PC Matthew Pritty

Beat Manager

Hoveton Police Stn

[Matthew.Pritty@Norfolk.Police.uk](mailto:Matthew.Pritty@Norfolk.Police.uk)

## What's on in Catfield

### Indoor Cycling

Join us for an invigorating workout in Catfield village hall,  
**Monday and Thursday evenings 6.45pm to 7.30pm.**  
Bring a bottle of water and a small towel. You remain in control of your bike so you can set the resistance to the level that's right for you. Then just cycle along to the music as the instructor guides you through the session.

Class costs £6 and pre booking is required.  
Contact Jane Turner to book a bike.  
M: 079 078 44433 Email: mailjaneturner@yahoo.com

### Afternoon tea with Catfield Action Team Catfield Village Hall Wednesday 5th March 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Come along and find out a bit more about what the group does  
and how you could get involved.

### Catfield Village Hall Friday 7th March 10.30 onwards

Come and join us for coffee and cake, a chat in a warm space and perhaps play a game of scrabble, dominoes or rummikub before finishing with a tasty bowl of soup.

This is a free event and all are welcome.  
For more information contact Judith on 01692 615807

### Litter Pick Saturday 8th March Meet 10am at Catfield Village Hall

**Catfield Stitching Group**  
**Tuesday 11th and Tuesday 25th March**  
**2pm to 4pm in Catfield Village Hall**

We are a friendly group of like-minded people, all at different levels of experience. If you, like us, enjoy stitching and sharing creative ideas, we would love you to join us. Please bring your own project (embroidery, knitting, crochet, patchwork or creative sewing). We have occasional, optional group projects and workshops.

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

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

**Quiz & Curry Night**  
**Tuesday 18th March**  
**The Crown Inn**

*See page 18 for more info*

**BINGO**  
**Catfield Village Hall**  
**Friday 21st March**

*See page 17 for more info*

**Catfield Crafters**  
**Wednesday 26th March**  
**1pm to 3pm in Catfield Village Hall**

At each meeting members share new ideas and techniques as well as making two card projects. All tools and materials are supplied. The subs for each session are £3.00 which includes refreshments. New members are always welcome.

**Contact Jennifer Banham on 01493 740560**

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

**MARCH 2025**

**It's (Finally) Spring by Ciéra Cree**

Searching for the first peeking snowdrop in your garden  
Dressing gown still in tow  
You feel the days starting to get longer,  
The warmth in the sun not quite there, but growing stronger

The tulips are waking up  
And you slumber dreaming of summer

Birds hop around more freely,  
Not only flying out in flurries to grab some seed before another winter's  
night

And when you hear them sing, you realise,  
Somehow it's (finally) spring

**SCREEN LUDHAM (LUDHAM VILLAGE CINEMA)**

**FRIDAY 28TH MARCH**

**IN THE CHURCH ROOM**

**DOORS OPEN AT 7pm for 7.30pm**

**'CONCLAVE'**

**Drama/Thriller (12A. 120 mins)**

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

**Mobile Library  
Next visit to Catfield  
Tuesday 18th March**

Thorn Road 14:45 - 15.05

Village Hall 15.10 - 15.30

# CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## WEDNESDAY 29th January 2025

### Public Update

- No issues raised

### Councillors Bayes and Taylor Update

- The District Councillors were unable to attend as they had to attend an emergency North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) meeting.

### Councillor Price Update

- Councillor Price advised that a Roadside Nature Reserve had been approved at Plumsgate Road. He provided an update on the Government's plans for devolution. Norfolk have applied to be on the priority list and the May county elections may have to be postponed. The planning application for the Western Link has been withdrawn to take further advice. He confirmed that he will pay £6000 towards the cost of the disabled parking bay. He will also ensure that only one set of traffic management costs is charged for the installation of the bus shelter and the disabled parking bay. The Parish Council (PC) has chosen the Green Three Bay Bus Shelter. Councillor Dr Harris to provide a summary of the overall scheme to all the parties.

### Planning

#### • **PC's Planning Questionnaire Update**

Councillor Edwards presented the report on the questionnaire responses. Councillor Harris proposed that the PC should decide whether there needed to be any additions to the report, for example, to identify whether those PCs who gave a low score on NNDC's performance had a higher proportion of planning applications. Councillor Bacon suggested that the final report should be sent to NNDC Planning Officers, Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and to those PCs who had responded to the questionnaire. Advice should be sought from District Councillors Bayes and Taylor. PC Councillors should forward any further suggestions to Councillor Edwards.

#### • **Store Galore**

NNDC Planning Department had advised that an application for a Certificate of Lawful Use and Development in respect of the Grove Farm site had to be submitted by 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The clerk to chase for an update.

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

Councillor Plowman advised that a bat box had recently been erected on the site and a fence had been removed. The land had been flattened and cleared of scrub and small trees so that the site appeared more like a garden. Although the PC was not taking any further action in respect of the appeal, individuals needed to submit their comments before the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 deadline.

#### • **IB/24/2688 – Pre-Planning Application – Land at the side of Back Lane – Installation of 1 x 9m and 1 x10m poles for fixed line broadband apparatus**

Councillor Harris declared an interest and advised that the poles are to be erected next to his gate and hedge. These could potentially be hit when cutting the hedge and moving livestock. Councillor Edwards to draft a letter requesting a site meeting between NNDC Planning Officers, the PC and the landowners to discuss the location of the poles.

#### • **TPO/25/1063 – Tree Preservation Order – Land at 11 Oak Tree Court, Catfield**

The PC noted the Order.

(cont'd)

- **Other Planning Matters**

Councillor Bacon advised that on the corner of the land in front of FloGas, an underground sewer connection had been installed. This went under Malthouse Lane into the Malthouse Lane site. It was not known whether it was Anglian Water or a contractor who had carried out this work. Councillor Harris advised that District Councillor Taylor had been informed of this and had contacted Anglian Water. The PC needed to obtain more information before deciding on what action needed to be taken.

The PC also noted that planning approval had been granted for a single storey extension to 24 Elderbush Lane.

### **Progress reports for information**

- **Village Hall**

The village hall management committee will meet with the PC's village hall sub-committee on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

- **Poor's Trust**

Councillor Dr Harris advised that there had been a successful distribution. The work on the quay headings will be starting soon. The sad loss of trustee, Michael Briscoe, was acknowledged.

- **All Saints Church**

Councillor Bacon advised that volunteers would soon start cutting the grass and that the lawnmower, which the PC contributed to, is still in use.

### **Environmental**

- **Catfield Action Group**

New hedging had been planted on Sutton Road by Chris Cook of Green Gardens. Trend have agreed to maintain the new plants alongside their existing hedge. Between 14.30 and 16.30 on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 there will be a free Afternoon Tea Event in the Village Hall. The next Bingo session is on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall. There will be a Summer Fete on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 and volunteers are needed.

### **Correspondence**

- **Deer Culling**

An email had been received from the RSPB advising that a deer carcass had been found on the Butterfly Conservation section of Catfield Fen and there is a deer seat on the Rond. Councillor Harris had photographed another deer seat in a different location. Neither Butterfly Conservation, the landowner or the PC have given permission to shoot on this land. Councillor Briscoe proposed that as this is a new, separate incident and with the additional evidence, the PC should report the matter to the Police and Natural England. Councillor Harris to draft letters regarding the Rond.

- **Goal Nets at the Recreation Ground**

A parishioner had offered to donate some second-hand goal nets which they would install to replace the existing worn nets. The PC were very grateful and happy to accept this kind offer. The PC will sporadically check the nets.

- **New Bus Stop Request on Elderbush Lane**

Councillor Bacon advised that both bus companies have confirmed that Elderbush Lane will be regarded as a request stop.

(cont'd)

### **Recreation Ground**

Councillor Jeffreys will pursue an application for National Lottery Funding. She would also like to set up a working group from different areas of the village.

### **Standing Order Policy**

Councillor Edwards raised some issues regarding the PC's Standing Orders. If a Councillor wishes to have the names of the persons who voted on a decision recorded in the Minutes, they must request this before moving onto the next item on the agenda. Councillor Edwards also stressed that the Standing Orders state that three quotations must be obtained for any work that is to be carried out.

### **Grass Cutting**

The clerk had obtained four quotes for this. The existing contractor's quote was not the lowest but the PC were satisfied with the service that had been provided in the past. The clerk to ask the existing contractor if they could improve on their quote. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

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

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**26<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



### **CATFIELD PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Keith Bacon	01692 581314	keithbacon@broadland.net
Janet Briscoe	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
Nicky Jeffreys (Vice Chairman)	07966 362762	nixsjeffreys@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
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.

## Come and join the Catfield News Team

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

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

## Articles for the Catfield News

If you have an article for the magazine we would love to receive it, but please remember to include your name as we do not print articles if we do not know who the author is. We don't have to print your name, but we need to know who you are.

Do you have a picture that you think would look good on the cover, or maybe an old picture of an area that has been redeveloped. Articles and pictures can either be e-mailed to one of the team or dropped into the Catfield News box in the Catfield Stores.

***Deadline for receipt of articles for March magazine is 10th April***



**Question** - I was told that the WaterSure Scheme might be of interest to me, but the details were sketchy, what is WaterSure?

**Answer** - WaterSure is a scheme which helps some people with their water bills. To apply for the scheme, you must be on benefits and need to use a lot of water either for medical reasons or because your household has a certain number of school-age children. You also need to be on a water meter or be waiting to have one installed.

If you get help through the WaterSure scheme, your water bill will be capped. This means you will not pay any more than the average metered bill for the area your water company deals with. For further information contact your local Water supplier, details will be on your annual bill.

**Question** – Can I make a complaint about a local NHS service, to Healthwatch?

**Answer** - Yes, you can complain to your local Healthwatch if you are unhappy with the service you received from, for example, GP's, hospitals, dentists, chemists, care homes, care support services, etc. Healthwatch is an independent body that helps people raise concerns about NHS services, it can provide guidance and support in making a complaint against a service.

There are 151 Healthwatch organisations throughout the UK. To find your local one, just Google Healthwatch and your County.

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

## Catfield Action Team - News and happenings March 2025

We have a lot happening this month as you'll see below, but we are also working hard along with other groups in the village on planning a summer fete - and we need your help!



### Catfield Village Fete, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

Following on from the success of the fete in 2023, we're planning a similar event this summer, again in the grounds of The Old Rectory. Between 11 am and 4 pm, there will be a classic car display, a model railway layout, lots of stalls, children's activities, a licensed bar, food vendors and live music. The fete takes a lot of work and we will need volunteers to help before, during and after the event – jobs will include helping with refreshments, the bar, the raffle, setting up, children's games and running stalls, to mention a few. Please consider if you can help in some way – we won't be able to do it without you!

### Afternoon Tea with CAT on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Our month starts with our drop-in Afternoon Tea with CAT event on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>. We're inviting you to come and meet us at the village hall to see what our group does and find out how you could fit in – or just let us have your ideas about improving our village. It's FREE to attend, and you can drop in at any time between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm for afternoon tea and a chat and a listen.

### Litter pick, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 10 to 12 am

A few days later – on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March – we'll be running another village-wide litter pick. Meet at the village hall from 10 am to collect your litterpicker and bag. We'll be spending a couple of hours tackling the problem, but even just a few minutes of your time will be a great help. Wear old clothes, gloves and sturdy footwear and prepare for a rewarding morning.

### Hedging on Sutton Road

Hopefully you will have noticed the new hedging filling the gap at the far end of the fence bordering Trend Marine's property on Sutton Road. It was planted by local landscaper Chris Cook of Green Gardens on Tuesday 21st January, and is a mixture of hawthorn, field maple and spindle.

### Fundraising

Thanks to everyone who came along to our Burns Night Quiz evening. It brought 5 keen teams together to test their brain power and enjoy haggis, neeps and tatties and a tot of whisky and looks as if it will have raised about £200 to put towards projects in the village.

Our March bingo session is on Friday 21st March, and we look forward to seeing players old and new - all welcome as usual. Games are £6.

To contact CAT, please tel: 07932 191558 or email [catfieldactionteam@gmail.com](mailto:catfieldactionteam@gmail.com).

## BROADLAND MODEL RAILWAY CLUB



We have been busy, we have had new flooring put down in our workshop area and it has really improved the space and made it much easier to keep clean, thanks to Stalham Carpets for sorting this out for us. We took the opportunity to have a bit of a clear up as well.

Layouts are progressing well, scenics and automation on Broadland, new extension to Herrington, track laying almost complete on Eight Acres and electrics being added to South Repps. You can follow this on our website where pictures of the progress are available.

The Stalham High School layout is also progressing well, we have started on the basic wiring and introducing the students to the world of control systems. It won't be long before we can run a train or two! We took a break from our regular Tuesday afternoon session at the school and the students came to our premises to see what we get up to the rest of the time. Very successful visit, the students were very impressed with the various layouts and had plenty of opportunity to ask questions. We enjoyed having them there and hope we can repeat this later when more progress has been made.

We are always interested in hearing from potential new members, full contact information is on the website:

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

### Wroxham and Hoveton Lions report extract

**On Sunday 16th March our first craft fair of the year will be taking place at the Hoveton Village Hall, 10am to 3pm.** This is fully booked, as are those later in the year, so there will be a wide range of goods on sale.

Planning is now well underway for our **Hoveton Village Charity Fete on 3<sup>rd</sup> August** and booking forms for stalls and classic cars are now available to download on our website <https://wroxhamandhovetonlions.org>

It's a great day out for the family and we hope we can beat last year's record entry of 124 classic vehicles.

If you have any spare time and feel you would like to give something back to your community, why not think about joining us. We are a friendly bunch and you can contact us via our website (as above). You will be made most welcome.

Finally, I must send congratulations and birthday wishes to former Lion, Keith Cox, who will be 100 years old on 21<sup>st</sup> March and who served in the Club, well into his 90's

Lion President Ron Hill



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

2nd March	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Potter Heigham	Rev'd Gary Noyes
5th March Ash Wednesday	7pm	Imposition of Ashes; Holy Communion	Ludham	Rev'd Gary Noyes; Judith Gardiner LLM
9th March	10am	Holy Communion	Ludham	Rev'd Gary Noyes; Ros Bingham LLMT Judith Gardiner LLM
	10am	Morning Worship	Catfield	
16th March	10am	Joint Holy Communion	Catfield	Rev'd Gary Noyes Lynda Savage AWA
	10am	Morning Worship	Ludham	
23rd March	10am	Joint Holy Communion.	Potter Heigham	Rev'd Gary Noyes April Noyes AWA
	10am	Morning Prayer	Ludham	
30th March Mothering Sunday	10am	Morning Worship	Catfield	Rev'd Gary Noyes Judith Gardiner LLM
	10am	Morning Worship/ Songs of Praise	Potter Heigham	

**Joint Waterside/ Methodist Lent Course**

in the Sloper Room, Ludham at 7pm  
 11th, 18th, 25th March and the 1st and 8th April.  
 Theme 'Build On The Rock- Faith, doubt and Jesus'  
 All welcome to join.

## Homily

These past thirty years, four gardens later and not in heavy rain, I take my first tea outside still in nightclothes and sit on my bench. It is my time of Quiet !

In my garden a friendly Robin sits close up and Jenny Wren pops here and there. I wonder if the Long Tailed Tits are from the two broods that fledged in my old french cupboard, standing in the backyard, amongst its shelves of old green bottles and stone jars. A pair of Blackbirds move through the plants and the Church clock chimes the hour to join in my thoughts about our World, the tribulations of it's people amidst natural disasters and the continued uncertainty of Wars.

So back to my Bench:

It was made from the timbers of The Esperance Bay a Scottish Passenger/ Cargo Steam Vessel launched in 1922, but requisitioned by the Admiralty at the start of the War. As an Armed Merchant Cruiser it rescued in July 1941, nine merchant seamen, whose ship had been sunk by a U-Boat. In 1955 the Esperance was broken up and my bench made in the late fifties.

Sitting on my Bench:

I am in awe at the unexpected beauty of my flowers , a carpet of snowdrops, primroses, cyclamen and the roses and not forgetting the anticipation of seeing many other flowers. My thoughts are drawn to what the nine men must have prayed for waiting to be saved.

As we approach Lent on 5th March an Ash Wednesday Service takes place at St Catherine to start our journey with Jesus to the Cross at Easter. Wherever your Quiet Place may be I pray that you are able to give time to think about your life, what it means to you and perhaps let God speak into your heart.

"I Lift My Eyes To The Quiet Hills"

April Noyes

## Hedgehogs



I photographed this pair of hedgehogs at night in my back garden in Catfield, we could hear them indoors ! They were engaged in their courtship, the male is larger and is on the right. This ritual consists of much going around in circular fashion accompanied by a lot of grunting and shuffling. When I have watched hedgehogs do this in the summer months with a wildlife camera at night, this behaviour never seems to reach a conclusion and goes on for ages until they go out of sight, the male is always larger than the female.

Hedgehogs cover a wide area at night looking for food worms, insects etc.

I have made hedgehog boxes with food inside, this attracts them and they will take dried hedgehog food available from garden centres, also a big favourite is tinned cat food, however once the local cats smell this out they will always get there first ! The camera then records a series of cat pictures !

I have tried fitting a maze like series of partitions inside the box to deter cats but they always manage to worm their way in. If a wildlife camera is not used the impression is that the hedgehogs are being well fed, but in reality a number of contented cats are responsible !

If you are very lucky one will hibernate all winter, a friend in Norwich had a box with a microphone inside, this records snoring and a lot of scratching even in their sleep. He had to give up eventually as a cat was trapped inside and pushed the lid off to escape !

When feeding at night they push each other out of the way like prickly battering rams !

Hedgehogs unfortunately are well endowed with parasites which nestle between their spines and gradually weaken them, these look like little black balloons, as well as other internal parasites. They are often seen scratching, in fact if they are watched at night 50 percent of their time is spent with the scratching, however this is in vain owing to their dense spines which harbour their unwelcome passengers

Alec Nisbet

## Farming News

Sugar beet have been harvested, clamped and carted with minimal mess. The only issue has been a lorry with minimal tyre tread, not getting any grip, that was resolved with a load of crush and I'm left with a better farm track than before. I have to say I'm rather impressed with the sugar beet at Catfield which produced just over 7000 bags of sugar per acre plus a food source for the 200+ red deer that arrived to eat the crop just before the crop was harvested. The deer have returned to my neighbour's farm to eat his winter barley less a few that have entered the local food chain. I'm not sure why but the deer are some 20-25 kilos lighter than they have been in previous years, perhaps its something to do with the relatively warm winter we are experiencing. The lambs grazing arable fields seem to be taking time to reach 45kg. When they do reach this weight, they make good money.

Winter ploughing has been delayed due to the various options of winter cover. Winter cover in SFI can be ploughed 6 weeks before the next crop is drilled, over-wintered stubbles in Mid-Tier stewardship can be ploughed from mid-February, game cover can be topped after the game shooting season (1<sup>st</sup> February onwards) and Winter bird food mixes in SFI can be ploughed after 1<sup>st</sup> March- although I'll probably leave mine till Mid-April. The Land that has had sugar beet harvested and is coming spring barley in 2025 has been ploughed in excellent conditions. All the Autumn fertilizer and ground chalk has been applied to 2025 sugar beet land and I'm beginning to think about Nitrogen/Sulphur fertilizer for winter cereals.

Some land, especially off Plumsgate Road is still sitting quite wet. My land drains have been jetted and ditches cleaned out, but the groundwater level seems very high considering the lack of rain and the fact that the IDB pump is functioning. I do wonder what has gone wrong. I think I'll check my neighbour's ditches to see what might be blocked.

February is time for the GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count (not to be confused with RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch). It will be interesting to see what birds are on the farm this year with the blocks of cover in SFI in place. Defra have been visiting the farms regularly to count weeds and birds. This is to gauge value for subsidy money. Mostly they have been concentrating on over-wintered stubbles but I've noticed that with the introduction of SFI cover crops that there are much safer places to feed if you are a small bird. The issue being the presence of so many birds of prey on open fields. The fairest way to conduct this survey is across multiple fields on multiple days and at different times of the day but I noted that the surveyors have to fit in with school opening hours so they miss the birds that like open fields at night like Grey Partridges and owls.

Avian Flu is back in South Norfolk, so this seems a good time to remind everyone who has pet poultry that they are supposed to be inside as well as being registered. The whole point of this is to control the spread of the disease and if APHA (Animal & Plant Health Agency) don't know you have poultry, its impossible to control the spread of the disease.

It looks like Defra are going to tighten up on Farming Rules for Water in an attempt to improve water quality in rivers. I think we can expect more robust visits from Environment Agency and Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers to check our records.

AWA 9.2.2025

## NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes



The month of March will see the first migrant birds moving through Hickling Broad NNR. We do not always readily notice the changes in the species of birds on the reserve at this time of year. Winter wildfowl will still be present but the numbers and species mix will subtly change. Coot will start dispersing to the ditches, dykes and ponds that they occupy during the breeding season. Our wintering wild swans, with both Bewick's and Whoopers still present in the local area as I write, will head back East-north-east and North respectively, the Bewick's to Arctic Russia and the Whoopers to Iceland. At the same time, Teal and Wigeon will be heading back across the North Sea to be replaced in part by building numbers of Mallard and Shoveler, the former returning to breeding territories but the latter as a passage migrant, passing through the county. Gadwall numbers having reached treble-figures will also start to thin as birds disperse and look for breeding territories. If we are lucky March may also bring the first Garganey to the reserve. Wintering in Africa these dapper little ducks will suddenly appear amongst the remaining flocks of Teal and Wigeon. The drakes are one of the most spectacularly plumaged of all the ducks, a grey, black and white body, enhanced by elongated scapular feathers contrast a vermiculated brown breast and head, marked by a sumptuous, broad white supercilium (stripe over the eye). The mating call of the drake is equally spectacular, being not dissimilar to a 'grating' Corncrake (imagine a thumbnail being quickly drawn across the teeth of a comb in staccato fashion).

For more information on the reserve and upcoming events please visit our website - [www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org)

**Tip:-** Before you reach for a plunger to unblock the sink, find some petroleum jelly. Apply it along the rim of the plunger and it will help create a tighter seal. The blockage will disappear far more quickly



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# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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Money raised from this event will support Catfield Community Group and will help fund other activities.

**Waterside Benefice**  
**Songs of Praise**  
 Led by Rev. Gary Noyes  
 With St Catherine's Church Choir  
 and the Scratch Band  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
**3pm**  
**St Catherine's Church**  
**Ludham**



Come along for a jolly good sing  
 Followed by tea and cake!

in support of **YANA**  
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[www.yana.org.uk](http://www.yana.org.uk)



*You are invited to join us at*  
*Catfield Old Time Music Hall*  
 On  
*Saturday 5th April 2025*  
 At  
*Catfield Village Hall*  
 For  
 7pm  
 Tickets: £10 including refreshments  
 and lucky ticket no.

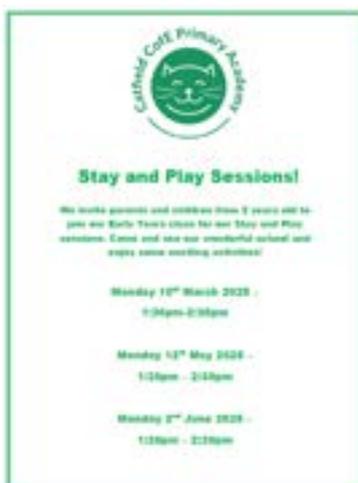
## Catfield Primary Academy

In January we had our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection. This is an inspection to determine whether a school is living up to its foundation as a Church school. The strengths from the report listed below, show what amazing work all of our staff and pupils do, of which we are extremely proud.

### Strengths

- Catfield Church of England Primary Academy is an inclusive and caring community in which members of the school are supported and valued. The school's Christian vision is at the heart of decision making and encourages high aspiration for all.
- The alignment of the vision of the school with that of St Benet's Multi-Academy Trust has enhanced opportunities for pupils and staff to flourish.
- Reflective leaders have produced a varied programme of collective worship which offers good opportunities for spiritual flourishing. Worship provides a welcoming and reflective atmosphere that includes and enriches the whole school community.
- Religious education (RE) is well led by an experienced subject leader. The RE curriculum is appropriately challenging and offers pupils opportunities to pose big questions about belief.
- Well trained staff ensure that pupils who have special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND), and those considered vulnerable, thrive at Catfield. These pupils are valued for who they are and receive individualised support to enable them to succeed.

Lucy Amis  
(Senior Teacher)



# Chef's Specials



## Sun-blushed Tomato and Spinach Cheese Roulade

### Ingredients

50g butter, plus extra for greasing  
50g plain flour  
300ml milk  
75g Parmesan cheese, finely grated  
2 tsp Dijon mustard  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
4 eggs, separated  
225g ricotta cheese  
115g spinach  
85g roughly chopped sun-blush tomatoes

### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170C. Grease and line a 33x23cm Swiss roll tin with greaseproof paper.
2. Melt the butter in a large saucepan, add the flour and stir until evenly blended. Remove the pan from the heat and gradually beat in the milk, return to the heat and bring to the boil, stirring constantly, until the sauce is thick and smooth. Remove from the heat again and stir in half of the Parmesan, the mustard and seasoning. Allow to cool slightly then add the egg yolks and beat until well incorporated.
3. Using a hand whisk, beat the egg whites in a large bowl until they stand in soft peaks. Mix a large spoonful of the egg whites into the sauce, then gently pour the sauce over the remaining egg whites and carefully fold together. Take care not to over-mix. Spread the mixture evenly into the prepared tin.
4. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown and the top springs back when touched lightly. Turn out on to a large piece of greaseproof paper dusted with the remaining Parmesan.
5. Peel away the paper and trim off the crispy edges of the roulade. Spread the surface with the ricotta leaving a 2.5cm gap at one short end, then cover with the spinach and tomatoes. Roll up the roulade using the paper to help. Cut the roulade into slices to serve.

D.S.



## Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat

We are incredibly grateful for Roys of Wroxham having us as their charity of the year 2024 and to their generous customers. Thanks to their support, we are overwhelmed to announce that we raised a staggering £9,180! As an independent lifeboat service, we rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters and public donations to keep our search and rescue services running. These vital funds from Roys of Wroxham will be used to purchase a second launch vehicle for our 6.4m RIB. This addition will not only allow us to remain operational while our current launch vehicle undergoes an essential overhaul, but it will also bring resilience and longevity to our service, ensuring we can continue to save lives at sea for years to come.



Our new launch vehicle begins life as a dumper, which is then expertly modified. The bucket will be replaced with a specially designed telescopic arm, powered by the existing hydraulics. A hydraulic winch will also be added to aid in recovery, along with additional lights to ensure it functions efficiently as a launch vehicle.

A big thank you also goes to Golden Beach Holiday Park and Norwich Hobart WI for their generous support and donations in 2024.

For many, the sea and coast hold a special place in their hearts. We offer a dignified and memorable service for families and friends wishing to scatter the ashes of a loved one at sea. From our lifeboat *Cannon Portal*, we conduct ceremonies at sea, allowing families to observe this poignant moment of reflection from our boatshed platform with its panoramic coastal views. For more information, please email [info@seapallinglifeboat.co.uk](mailto:info@seapallinglifeboat.co.uk)

As the weather gets warmer and longer evenings are in sight, our crew trains every Thursday evening and Sunday morning. Come say hello if you're in Sea Palling!

Rita Galbraith  
Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat  
Fundraising Team

Registered Charity No. 267211

**One Liner** : Don't let striving for the perfect be the enemy of finding the good.

## How Hill Trust



### Education team

Our school residential has been going well and we welcomed our first full week residential from Sheringham in February. Our full week schools put together a presentation summarising their favourite parts of their stay and what they have learnt. Whether it is exploring the beautiful house gardens or doing some in depth aquatic ecology sampling around the site, their presentations and songs are always very entertaining.

Out on How Hill's nature reserve, we have been listening for the bitterns on the marshes with their "Booming" calls that can be heard from up to 2 miles away! Bitterns are medium sized herons with a pale brown plumage and dark streaks that help them camouflage into their reed-bed habitat. Did you know they even sway their necks with the wind, so they aren't spotted!

### Adult groups

March brings us Hester's Yoga Group. Hester has been hosting Yoga retreats at How Hill for many years and brings groups to stay with us three times a year. Surrounded by the calm and tranquillity of our beautiful location, her guests can enjoy country walks alongside their yoga practices.

We are delighted that our March Pudding Evening is fully booked. These are always great fun with a story for each pudding and a vote at the end for a favourite. Those of us working like to play along too with a small taste of each and a compare of notes with the guest results.

We have been taking lots of bookings for our adult courses which include Gardens, Churches and Wherry Courses (there really is something for everyone on our adult courses).

Currently our Secret Gardens are closed. They suffered rather badly with water logging during the wet spring last year and took a further hit from the recent high winds which destroyed a large shed in the entrance. We are working hard to clear debris and carry out repairs but with last year bringing in much lower donations for the Garden than previous years we also have to be mindful of our spending.

### Upcoming events!

#### **Birding for Beginners Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Su Gough will be joining us again for this weekend. A gentle introduction to the birds of the Broads. We will be looking at how to identify birds: their behaviour, where they are found, their plumage and we will soon learn some birds by their song! This weekend will appeal to beginners and those with a little birding experience.

Cost: £400 per person or £700 for 2 people sharing a room. This price includes all meals, excursions and entry fees

#### **Moroccan Night Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 – 6.30pm for 7pm meal**

An evening of Middle Eastern Treats. Come and join us for 3 courses of typically Moroccan food created in the kitchens of How Hill.

Cost: £35 per head

Please contact the How Hill office on 01692 678555 or email [secretary@howhilltrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@howhilltrust.org.uk) for further details and to book on any courses or events. A list of our events and courses for the whole year can be found on our website. [www.howhilltrust.org.uk](http://www.howhilltrust.org.uk) or by contacting our office.



### Family Events. Save the date!!

**Easter Family Days 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> April – 10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm**

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

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

## The Museum of the Broads is open from Sunday March 30th

All the weeks of cleaning, restoring, planning and preparation are over. The Museum of the Broads is open and all of us on the team are thrilled to welcome visitors, old and new.

Sunday March 30th is just ten days into official Spring (it starts on Thursday March 20th). It's such a wonderful time in Broadland. The starlings are thinking about breeding, the earliest of summer birds have started to arrive and the hedgerows are showing the first flush of a new season.

And here in Stalham we're open to welcome you in. There's a lot going on.

**It's Spring so start thinking about the Spring Trail.  
Make a diary note now. April 6th to April 22nd**

It's a lovely trail around the Museum and features - the **Bird Call Chorus!**

You'll learn so much and have so much fun. Spot the feathers and learn the calls of our famous Broadland birds! Look out for wildlife poos and pellets along the way and discover what goes 'crunch!' in a Barn Owl's lunch!

And it's all included in your Museum entry fee.

Once inside the museum there's so much more to see. Brilliant new displays and collections are on show and some of our established exhibits - including the wonderful Pippa Miller exhibition - have been refreshed for 2025.

We have new Heritage Trails to sample too. First up is -

**Museum Highlights.** This self guided trail around the museum lets you discover the stories of the Broads through 10-15 of our objects on display throughout the museum's collections. It really adds something to your visit.

And on the subject of your visit - great news! We've kept museum admission at the same price as last year. That's right! There's no price increase for 2025. It's not often you hear *that!*

Don't forget our special deal too - you can **pay once and come back as often as you like for a whole year.** Our team will be happy to talk you though it.

It will soon be Summer so look out for details of our **Steam and Sail** package. And with Summer comes **Albion Open Day.** We'll keep you posted with updates month by month. Meantime everything you need to know is always available on our website at [www.museumofthebroads.org.uk](http://www.museumofthebroads.org.uk) So take a look.

But most importantly make a date to come and visit us. It's Spring and we're back. Bringing the stories of the Broads alive. From March 30th.

We can't wait to see you.

**SUDOKU**

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

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

**Last Months Solution**

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

**RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS**

<b>Church of England</b> All Saints' Church, Catfield	Services – See page 13 for details.	Rev'd Gary Noyes - 01692 678842 e-mail <a href="mailto:granoyes@gmail.com">granoyes@gmail.com</a> Judith Gardiner - Licensed Lay Minister and Church Warden <a href="mailto:judithgardiner5@aol.com">judithgardiner5@aol.com</a> or 01692 615807 Dr Keith Bacon - Church Warden 01692 581314
<b>Baptist</b> Baptist Chapel, Stalham	See <a href="http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk">www.stalhambaptist.org.uk</a> for latest updates	Pastor – Rev. Ron Skivington – 01692 582091
<b>Roman Catholic</b> Saint Helens, Hoveton Sacred Heart, N. Walsham	See <a href="http://www.sacredheartnorthwalsham.com">www.sacredheartnorthwalsham.com</a> for latest updates	Father Peter Raj - 01692 403258 E-mail <a href="mailto:parishpriestfrpeter@gmail.com">parishpriestfrpeter@gmail.com</a>
<b>Methodist</b> Ludham	See <a href="http://www.eangliamethodist.org.uk">www.eangliamethodist.org.uk</a> or facebook pages for latest updates	Rev. Andrew King – 01493 750799 Alan Croft - Steward - 01692 582104
<b>Saint Fursey's Orthodox</b> Christian Centre, Sutton	See website – <a href="http://www.saintfursey.uk">www.saintfursey.uk</a>	Rev. Stephen Weston – 01692 580552



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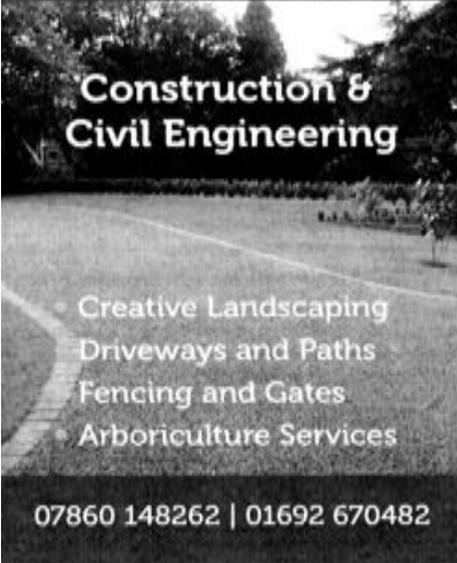
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Items for inclusion need to be received no later than **10<sup>th</sup>** of each month. Items can be e-mailed to the team, *contacts detailed on page 2*, or left in the Catfield News box in the Village Shop. Articles should be no more than 400 words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