



Annual Report 1st April 2022—31st March 2023

One might say that 2022/2023 could be summarised in two words – Deer Park. The news of the sale of the land raised tense public opinions against any development on this site and it was good to see the community come together to express their objections and fight for the Park. The Parish Council continued to be against any development of the land and worked tirelessly to open discussions with the developer. Our announcement in March that the Parish Council had secured the purchase of the land was the icing on the cake – ensuring that this valuable Old Catton asset will now remain protected from any development in the future.



June marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Parish Council were pleased to host the Fun Day Celebration at the Recreation Ground and the Picnic in the Park Event at Catton Park. The glorious weather ensured that footfall was high and with free children's activities (zorbing, circus tricks, facepainting), children's fairground rides, craft and information stalls, netball demonstrations, raffles, chainsaw wood carving, bucking bronco and dance demonstration), it was clear that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day event. Live music by Terry Adams, Felix, and Hayley Moss ensured the party in Catton Park was also a huge success. It was a wonderful way to bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities and I thank all who supported the event.



2022 recorded one of the hottest summers which provided many challenges for the management of our green spaces. Our Head Groundsman, Ross, together with our grounds staff worked tirelessly against the weather to ensure that all the Parish Council facilities were of the best standard we could provide in the circumstances. Bowls and cricket continued to be enjoyed by our resident teams, equipment was maintained, maintenance was carried out. The grounds staff team are to be commended for the work they carry out at all the facilities the Council are responsible for – the Cemetery, the Churchyard, Woodham Leas, the War Memorial, Lavaré Park, the Village

Pond and the Recreation Ground. We are sure all residents will agree that, thanks to the staff's efforts, Old Catton remains a beautiful and well-maintained village. My personal thanks to Ross, Chris and Darren for their hard work during this year.

During the year we have continued to make improvements around the Parish; the trod surface on Oak Lane has been tarmacked (funding provided through the Parish Partnership Scheme), new noticeboards have been installed at Morrisons and Repton Avenue bringing the total number of noticeboards around the village to eight, replacement tree and hedging has been installed and, through S106 funding, we have replaced the fencing on the tennis courts. The planting of the historic fruit trees at the green space at Woodham Leas, which will create a small community orchard, will soon be carried out.

At the time of writing we have just had Parish and District Councillor elections. Sadly we have a number of Councillors who have chosen not to stand this year for which we must give heartfelt thanks for their years of service to our Parish. We especially thank Ann Chandler and Brian Honess who have served as Councillors for more than a decade, for the time, effort and support they have given to the Parish and wish them well in their "retirement". We welcome two new Councillors to the Parish – John Arnott and Martin Callam – and welcome the contributions they will make to the Parish Council. Our congratulations also go to Councillors Karen Vincent, Ken Leggett and Richard Potter for their re-election as District Councillors for Old Catton and look forward to continuing our collaboration with them for the benefit of our residents.



This year the Parish Council has continued supporting our community. We provided a weekly "Warm Room" to residents during the Winter months – offering a warm welcoming space to those residents who were finding the energy and cost of living crisis difficult and have decided to continue running this as a "Warm Welcome twice a month for the foreseeable future. We also continue to support the Royal British Legion and provided display windows for art as part of the Remembrance Display, Catton Park by hosting the annual Garage Sale and Friends of Catton Park through the selling of tickets for the Easter Egg Hunt and Open Gardens events and selling greeting cards.

Old Catton Parish Councillors:

Mr J Arnott, 01603 462376
210 St Faiths Road, NR6 7AG

Mr M Callam, 01603 343508
138 Moore Avenue, NR6 7LQ

Mr T Cooke, 07565 161159
5 Parkside Drive, NR6 7DP

Mr G Crouch, 01603 404520
202 Spixworth Road, NR6 7EQ

Mr B Leggett, 01603 429986
30 Garrick Green, NR6 7AL

Mr B Sabberton-Coe (Chairman)
01603 483976
62 Garrick Green, NR6 7AN

Mr G Tingle, 07901 525052
36 Mousehold Lane, NR6 8HA

Mr M Vincent, 01603 485460
4 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND

Miss P Wilkin, 01603 781050
Church Barn, NR13 6QT

Old Catton Parish Council Annual Report Continued...



The Council also proudly supports the youth of our community; through Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) via the Old Catton Youth Group, through the LGBTQ weekly group and by supporting the Old Catton youth football team (U14s) who practise at the Recreation Ground on Tuesday evenings. We continue to welcome and support youth netball through the weekly practise session of Thoroughbred Netball held at the Recreation Ground, look forward to welcoming the Dynamos Cricket youth group who will be starting at the Recreation Ground shortly and continue to provide support to Old Catton Junior Football Club who use the Parish Council owned site at Lavaré Park.

With the restart of playing season we also welcome our sports groups back to the Recreation Ground – our three bowls clubs (Wensum, Catton and Old Catton teams), Old Catton Cricket Club and Thoroughbreds Netball have all returned to enjoy the facilities at the Reaction Ground and with the newly installed fencing, gate and online booking system we hope to increase tennis usage also. We are lucky to have such diversity of facilities at the Recreation Ground and it is a pleasure to see so many people using and enjoying them.

Looking forward to next year (2023-2024) – we started our community support with the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. The Parish Council hosted an all-day event at the Recreation Ground, there was a real Community spirit, visitors enjoyed watching the Coronation live on a giant screen, while children enjoyed funfair rides and free children's activities. Despite the rain later in the day, there was still a wonderful atmosphere with visitors singing and dancing in the rain to Terry Adams and friends who provided some excellent music. Plans for CIL/S106 expenditure on the Pavilions at Lavaré Park and the Recreation Ground and improvements to Buxton Lodge and the Church Hall will hopefully come to fruition by the end of 2023 with building works starting in 2024. These improvements will provide updated and improved facilities for our community to enjoy.



We would like to thank Norfolk County and Broadland District Councillor Karen Vincent and Broadland District Councillor Ken Leggett for their continued hard work and dedication to Old Catton and collaboration with the Parish Council for improvements to the Parish. Through discussion with the Parish Council, Councillor Karen Vincent and Councillor Ken Leggett have been instrumental in positively improving highways, green spaces and facilities within Old Catton. They have provided a valued extension of the Parish Council and have made a significant impact to our Parish.

Finally, I would personally like to thank my fellow Councillors (old and new) and the Council staff for their continued support, advice and hard work and look forward to their contributions for the next year on behalf of the village and the Council. I would like to give special thanks to Gail and my personal thanks to Sarah for all her help and support throughout this last year.

Mr Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Chairman



OLD CATTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

This is a report on one of the most successful grassroots junior football clubs in the county. Old Catton Junior football club was formed in 1969. Today we have 19 teams which consist of boys from the age of under 6 and is an accredited Wildcats centre that has seen young girls train every Friday evening.

This has grown from the start of 2019 season and we are now looking to turn some of these Wildcats into fully fledged football teams to create teams to be successful as the National Lioness and give the boys a bit of competition over the coming years. If you wish to join the girls teams please contact us www.facebook.com/oldcattonjfc.

Old Catton Junior football club wish to say goodbye to the out-going Secretary and Treasurer Richard King who has many years experience of grassroots football. Richard has been a good steward of the club and lead us into a very good place financially and has set the club up for many years to come. It has been a sad time for the club but all at the club are looking forward to expanding the facilities at our ground Lavaré Park over the next couple of years we are expecting the club to grow with the expansion of housing in our village the aim is to provide excellent football conditions within the club and to provide a safe environment for all the players. We are a stage two chartered standard club from the Football Association, where all our coaches are fully qualified and DBS checked. We will be having an intake event in September where we will be welcoming new under 6 footballers (school year 1) keep a look out on our Facebook and Twitter accounts for further details.

Old Catton Junior Football wishes to thank the local Parish Council for the support they have given to our club over the last twelve months. In return we have supported the Parish Council at the King Charles Coronation event and we aim to be part of future events, this shows we are committed to the parish of Old Catton, and we are looking forward to being united in providing a safe environment to our members and the children of the parish today, and incoming members of the future.

Lavaré Park has seen 283 games this season which is breakdown of the following :
15 -18 year olds 60 games; 13-14 year olds 45 games; 11-12 years old 55 games
mini soccer games 123 games.

Mark Winhall—Club Treasurer/ Operations Manager





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Another year and Parish Spring newsletter rolls around and it's been a busy few months for the Old Catton Branch of the Royal British Legion.

In November last year, for Remembrance we honoured our family members and ancestors who had served and sacrificed with our display at the Pavilion in Church Street. Reading about the heroes in YOUR family was interesting and inspiring. We had a record year for the Poppy Appeal as well, which was wonderful. I know of no charity more beloved in the hearts of the people of Britain and throughout the world (we have nearly fifty branches in other countries) than the Royal British Legion. It is an absolute privilege to be part of this great work in showing our thanks to those who are willing to lay their lives on the line so that we can make the most of ours.

This year we decided to focus on reaching, supporting and helping more veterans and their families which I am pleased to say we have been able to do. Whether it has been visiting them in their homes, arranging for further support from Legion welfare workers, or being a telephone buddy, we are helping those veterans in our community and their families with the rigors of day-to-day living, arranging financial or debt advice, supporting them through illness or bereavement and being a friend. Everyone could use more friends so if you would like to be involved as a telephone buddy or anything else, let us know.

Our County RBL celebrated its 100th annual conference in February. Our County President, General Jonathan "Jacko" Page was in attendance, together with Norfolk County Council's Chairman Karen Vincent and other dignitaries and friends of the Legion. The photo shows Karen Vincent and our County Chairman, Paul "Smudge" Smith cutting our epic celebration cake, made by our friend, supporter and Old Catton Guide Leader, Sgt Catherine Clarke. It looked incredible and was delicious. At the County Awards ceremony, our Branch won the Runner Up Award for the C W Jex Cup – the award for progress and efficiency in a small branch. Well done to our committee and volunteers!



We have started a branch newsletter, so if you would like to be included on our email list – even if you are just interested in the work we do or the trips and outings we are arranging, please get in touch. We hope to bring our members, beneficiaries and volunteers closer together as a community and family, with news, trips, and get-togethers.



It was a privilege to attend the Parish Council meeting in March and present a Certificate of Appreciation to Bradley, Sarah and the Parish Council in recognition and thanks for all the support that they give to us as a branch. Nothing is ever too much trouble and they always get involved and help out with whatever we do. Special thanks go to Sarah and Gail who are always at the other end of my requests for help, and always with a smile!

Our Standard Bearer, Sam, is beginning a new chapter in his life and will be leaving in June to do voluntary service in Canada. We wish him all the very best for that adventure. We hope to be able to introduce you to our new Standard Bearer soon. If there is anyone interested in being our reserve standard bearer, please get in touch.

Being a member of the Legion is like being in a family and our members who have served in the Forces feel a similar camaraderie. We have bi-monthly meetings, enjoyed trips to RAF Coltishall, the Air Defense Radar Museum and are planning further trips this year to include the National memorial Arboretum, the RAF museum at Hendon, we are a family and we would love for you to become part of our family. On a personal note, being a member of the Legion has been a family affair, involving my mum, myself and my son. It has been a really rewarding shared experience and has brought us closer as we have served together. Being part of this wonderful organisation and serving others has brought numerous personal benefits. Even though the Legion's motto is "Service, not Self", when you come together in a common goal to serve others, you can't help but lift your own spirits. We would LOVE for more families to come on board with us this year, helping to shape our branch and what we do! Make it a family thing and join ours!



Lindsay Carruthers, Chairman Old Catton Royal British Legion—email oldcatton.chairman@rbl.community

THE OLD CATTON SOCIETY



The Old Catton Society has been established for over thirty years having been formed by the late Mary Manning who was in fact a teacher at Church Street School. Mary encouraged members of the community to form a Committee and as a result the Old Catton Society was born. The aims being to promote the village and monitor future developments that may be considered detrimental to the village.

To emphasise the Society's ideas there have been three books published. There is the original 'History of Old Catton' written by Mary Manning and there are two other books covering 'Old Catton in the 20th Century' written by two members of the Society and another 'Historic House of Old Catton' written by other members. These books can be purchased at a cost of £3 each or two for £5 from the Secretary Barry Leggett Tel 49986 or barryleggett30@gmail.com

The Society meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Village Hall where members have a guest speaker for the evening. Membership is £20 for the year or £3 any evening for guests

Barry Leggett—Chairman

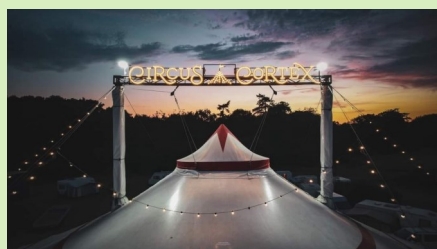


CATTON PARK TRUST

This year saw Catton Park being awarded the Green Flag Community Award for a 6th year running. This award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces acknowledging that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards and is beautifully maintained. Our Warden, Matt Caley, and Park Assistant, Amy Henderson, are to be commended for the impressive standard with which they continue to ensure the Park is maintained. We are honoured to have been awarded this Award again and hope we can maintain this standard for many years to come.



Throughout 2022 the Park has continued to see numbers of visitors increase significantly. Whether for pleasure, exercise, dog walking, family fun, cycling or to attend an event it is evident that Catton Park is now well-established as a Norwich Park that is worth visiting. High footfall has ensured that Catton Park has become known as a Park of high standard and we are immensely proud of the reputation Catton Park now affords.



Ongoing maintenance of the park and woodland continues to be carried out. Tree and shrub planting, woodland management, grass cutting, replacing fencing, improving the pond, extensive path maintenance and never-ending litter picking continues are just a few of the tasks carried out at the Park. Our regular volunteers (John, Ben and Jonathan) provide essential support to Matt and Amy in helping with these tasks and we give special mention and thanks to them.

This year brought some events to Catton Park. We hosted a very successful Upcycling Event in May and we are hopeful to repeat this in 2024. Circus CORTEX (containing Ukrainian and Russian performers) came to Catton Park in July and were a huge success. The hugely successful Picnic in the Park as part of the Parish Council's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations took place in June with large numbers of attendees enjoying live music and the lighting of the Beacon. Larry Gray & Sons Fun Fairs visited the Park in September. Unfortunately and unforeseen this clashed with the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II so, respectfully, opening days were restricted, however residents and visitors thoroughly enjoyed the rides on those days they were open. Sadly Strange Fascination Outdoor Theatre were unable to join us this year – due to the happy news of the birth of Simon and Daisy's first child. The Friends of Catton Park hosted the annual Lantern Parade in October with a slightly longer walk starting from the Spixworth Road entrance – it was wonderful to see so many lanterns and children enjoying themselves, also the ever popular Easter Egg Hunt (with record number of children taking part).

Looking to 2023 the following events will be taking place with full details being posted on our website, social media and on posters:

- 30th June–2nd July Larry Gray & Sons Fun Fair with special 4th July celebrations.
 - 7th-9th July and 14th-16th July: Circus CORTEX.
 - 22nd July: Strange Fascination Outdoor Theatre with their adaptation of Alice Through The Looking Glass.
 - 20th October: Friends of Catton Park Lantern Walk
- PHOTO COURTESY OF DRONE WORKS MEDIA



The Park receives a small annual grant from Natural England so raising funds for the sustainability of the Park is a high priority for the Trust. We thank you for continuing to support the Park through recycling your glass bottles and paper at the bins provided at Morrisons, The Maids Head PH, The Woodman PH and The Old Rectory, Crostwick. You can also support the Park through the Broadland Community At Heart Lottery: <https://www.communityatheartlottery.com/support/catton-park-trust> – 50% of every ticket purchased goes to your chosen charity and here is the chance to win £25,000. Other ways to support the Park are via JustGiving: <https://www.justgiving.com/cattonpark> or through Easy Fundraising: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cattonpark/>. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Mr Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Chairman of the Catton Park Trust

MESSAGE FROM PC GRAHAM GILL



With the world returning to a new version of normality over the past year, my duties as a Beat Manager of engaging with the community in face-to-face street surgeries and meetings have been restored. I also attend local events, work on the priorities voted for by residents, and tackle any issues that arise.

Engagement surgeries are held at least once a month in Old Catton, which are advertised in advance on our website and social media, and the public are encouraged to come along to discuss local problems or simply have a chat. Thank you to everyone who has stopped by in the last year to do just that.

Every three months priority concerns in the community are discussed and amended to give focus to the patrol areas and partnership work we conduct. The priorities of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and speeding are often agreed upon in the public meetings, and work continues to address your concerns.

We have conducted high-visibility patrols around key locations and investigated reports made to us about ASB. Two suspects were recently identified and interviewed for such offenses. ASB is understandably a concern in most areas of Norfolk, but I'm pleased that there were very few reports of this nature in Old Catton since April 2022.

Speed checks are regularly carried out in the area, and joint operations with the Road Collision Reduction Team and Camera Safety Team have been successful in catching drivers travelling over the speed limit.

The latest Priority Setting Meeting, held in March 2023, saw a great attendance by Councillors and residents alike, with a positive response to the actions taken in the start of the year.

The next two meetings will be held in person, so come along to discuss your community with me:

- Wednesday 21st June, 7pm at The Jones Room, Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Norwich, NR7 8TR
- Wednesday 27th September, 7pm. at **Old Catton Parish Council**, The Recreation Ground Pavilion, Church Street, Norwich, NR6 7DS

Please remember, if you want to report an incident or crime, you can do this via 101, or 999 in an emergency. If there are any concerns you wish to raise otherwise, you can do so by emailing me at SNTSprowston@norfolk.police.uk. I encourage you to report anti-social behaviour and any other issues to the police, so that we can prioritise our patrol areas moving forward.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

In 2022 St. Margaret's welcomed a new member to our Ministry Team with Revd. Sally McCubbin joining us as Assistant Curate for her next stage in training to become a Vicar. She soon settled into the community of Old Catton and has been a regular sight walking her dog, Bilbo, on Catton Park.

The church has continued to be busy and available for the highs and lows of life from weddings and baptisms to funerals. We had the joy of celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee with a special service, although unfortunately later in the year we were open so that people could sign the book of remembrance for her passing. But once again we found ourselves celebrating as we held a special coronation service and refreshments for King Charles III.

There have been lots of opportunities to show case the hospitality of the church and its warm welcome as we held Christmas and spring fairs, lent lunches and harvest suppers. There is also knit and natter and the weekly (during term time) Coffee, Chat & Company which has moved into the Church Hall due to it needing more space.

It has been particularly great to have the church more involved with the local schools and to welcome Old Catton Junior and the Hall School into church for services and the uniformed groups such as the guides and scouts in to learn about the church and to help the Scouts obtain their faith badge. Christmas remains a great time to have young people in to have fun while learning the real reason for Christmas.

Of course, we continue to hold our weekly Wednesday 10am and Sunday 8am and 10am services as well as special services for key festivals and events. The church is also open during the day so that people can come and find a quiet place to sit to be still and perhaps light a candle in prayer. The church hall remains a resource for the community of Old Catton and welcomes a wide range of groups for their meetings including the monthly meetings of the Mother's Union and the Women's Group as well as the quarterly Men's Breakfast.

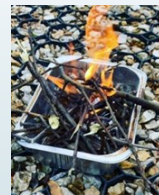
We hope that in the coming year the church and hall will continue to grow and support the people of the parish of Old Catton.

Revd David Hagan-Palmer



GIRLGUIDING CATTON DISTRICT

1st and 2nd Old Catton Rainbows (4 – 7 yrs old) have been busy since last April with Science experiments, celebrating festivals and having fun both inside and outdoors with games, crafts and activities. Completing many theme awards and challenge badges.



The Brownies (7-10 yr olds) had fun outdoors building bug hotels, water activities, crafts and having a tea party being amongst the programme. Weekends away including a trip to Legoland Windsor which was great fun. They have welcomed new Brownies to the unit with campfire songs and crafting campfires out of biscuits and sweets.

The Guides (10-14yr olds) have had some fun times including a week long camp to Lincolnshire for Poacher 2022 and a joint activity with 44th Norwich Scouts to create a Remembrance day display for outside the church. They were asked to write a postcard about their time in the last year.



'In Guides we're always doing something fun such as activities for our badges, games and crafts. When it's hot we love to go outside and we also celebrate holidays such as Easter, Burns night, Thinking Day and other national holidays'

'Our parents came and we had a hand Pamper, We had Shim come and tell us about 1st Old Catton Guides when she was a Guide, We cooked chicken burgers in the kitchen, When we went on the Monopoly Run and had to go round London'

'During our past year of Guides we have done a lot, but some of our favourites have been watching films on the projector and our parties'

'We have done some really fun things in Guides, like: Easter hunts, learnt life and death safety, brought family into Guides to do pampers and picnic. We just have lots of fun in general. We are Thankful to be a Guide'



Old Catton Rangers (14-18yr old) have been on a few weekends away including to London which included a show at the theatre and shopping! They have made a terrarium, baked (a LOT!), chatted and taken part in the Monopoly Run Live just to name a few things.

Follow all our Guiding adventures on <https://www.facebook.com/cattondistrictgirlguiding>



Sadly, we also lost one of our amazing leaders unexpectedly. Sandra Failes, who was Tawny Owl for 29 years with 1st Old Catton Brownies. They celebrated her by having a tree planted in her memory.

The tree will grow, watching over us for many years to come. A strong presence for our unit, as she was. Always in our thoughts.

Catherine Clarke—District Commissioner

SPROWSTON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT



SYEP continues to run the youth group at Old Catton Pavilion on a Thursday evening 6.30pm until 9.30pm. Although a lot of our older young people have now started to drop off. Sessions at the youth group continue to be well attended and we now have 38 different young people attending on a regular basis. Lots of different activities are delivered each week which includes a easter egg hunt, quiz nights, games night, table football tournament plus lots more. We have food every week from make your own pizzas to pasta which everyone enjoys and always goes down well. We have a sports coach attend each week and now it is getting brighter will be playing more sports like rounders and football.

We have a new senior youth worker Andrew Bruce aka Brucie, who started on the 12th of April and after his month's induction will be taking over the group from our Youth Operations Manager Clare Lincoln. This will be a sad time for her but she will be popping in on a regular basis to say hi and covering sessions when needed.

We have also set up an under 14s football team who have been training on a Tuesday evening and although we started the team too late in the season to join a league, we have played two friendlies losing 3 – 0 to Sheringham Lighthouse and winning 6 -1 against Thorpe. The team is building nicely, and we now have 12 great players. We will be playing in a mini tournament on the 20th of May and look forward to joining a league next season. We are hoping to set up an under 12s team so if you would like any more information regarding this, our under 14s or youth group please get in touch with Andrew.bruce@syep.co.uk



SYEP TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



OLD CATTON HORTICULTURAL CLUB

Hello all. It is my pleasure to give you this report which covers the club's activities since March last year.

2022 was our first with a full year since Covid and our first full year of meeting in St Margaret's Church Hall. In addition to the eight monthly talks and 12 monthly newsletters, we had 2 Shows, one Plant Sale, one coach day trip, 2 afternoon and one evening garden visit, a Jubilee Afternoon Cream tea, a summer BBQ and a Christmas Social.

All these activities were well supported with a growing and largely active membership. With the support of Broadland District Council we were also able to set up a Community Orchard at Oakfield Gardens (off Proctor Road) which survived thanks to a small band of volunteers who regularly watered the trees and hedges throughout the drought. The fruit trees have thrived and are currently full of blossom.

Our two Annual Shows were very well run as usual by the Show Committee, led by Ros Tann, the Show Secretary. They both attracted a good number of exhibitors including some of our more recent members and, despite the vagaries of the weather, the exhibits were of a high standard. The afternoons were well supported by members and were also visited by several members of the public. In the recent Spring Show there was a record number of 257 entries.



The Trips sub-committee organised visits to Hyde Hall, Fiddian's Folly, Little Plumstead Walled Garden and Brick Kiln House all of which were enjoyed by those who went on them. The Social sub-committee organised a Summer BBQ, an Afternoon Jubilee Tea and a Christmas Social all of which were well supported and excellently organised.

Our major fundraiser was the Plant and Cake Sale which raised a large amount of money and helped us to provide good quality speakers and keep the membership fee low.

We also celebrated the Queen's Jubilee by having a Memorial Oak Tree planted in Catton Park in the name of the Club and paid for by donations from Members. None of this could happen without the help of an active and committed committee and sub-committee members and several willing additional members.

We have just had our 2023 AGM and have another full programme planned, with two Shows, 3 trips, a Plant and Cake Sale, Members Open Gardens and some Socials all in the pipeline. This year we are also planning a special talk from Alan Gray in September which will be open to all by ticket to include Cheese and Wine.



We continue to thrive and currently have 101 paid-up members with only 4 spaces left before we must resort once again to a waiting list.

Liz Brown Secretary Tel: 01603 409905 - email: ochcsec@btinternet.com

KAREN VINCENT—YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORTING BACK

Hello, and thank you for reading my first article since the local elections. I feel grateful and honoured to be re-elected and I promise to work hard to represent the whole community. To be able to represent you effectively its important I know what concerns you and to hear your views on local issues. So, don't hesitate to contact me. I am here to help!

I believe we can achieve more when we work together as a community and two examples spring to mind. Firstly, protecting the Deer Park from development and secondly creating an Orchard in Oakfield Gardens for the community and future generations to enjoy. While I played an active role in each, it was the collective team effort that made each a success.

For the Deer Park, the focus and determination of Kathy and DPAG members, everyone who responded to my call to write in support of it being registered as an *Asset of Community Value*, and the 1500+ who signed the petition. Last but no means least, huge thanks to Old Catton Parish Council for securing the funding to purchase the Deer Park.

For the orchard, the invaluable support of Old Catton Horticultural Club, Liz and Denis in particular and funding/advice from Broadland DC and Norfolk CC. We are looking to enhance the orchard this year. If you would like to help, I'd love to hear from you.

My contact details are below, or pop in and see me at one of my surgeries (in Morrisons 11-12 on 2nd Saturday of month and Sprowston Library 10:30-11:30 on last Saturday of month) I am not so good on social media but working on that !

On 25th June, I am holding a Community Event to share information and seek your views on various things, including speeding and road safety. I put in applications to the Road Safety Fund in response to concerns about Church Street, Norman Drive and Spixworth Road and delighted to report that all 3 bids have been successful.

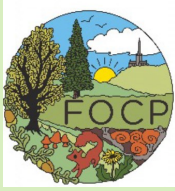
Please join me if you can and *Have Your Say*. If you can't attend please send me your thoughts. I want to ensure we find the right solutions and best outcomes for our community.

Hope to see you on 25th June at Old Catton Pavilion, Recreation Ground , Church St, NR6 7DS from 2-4pm.

Best wishes, Karen

Cllr Karen Vincent, Email: karen.vincent2.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk Tel: 01603 989856

FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK



The Friends of Catton Park are a group of local people who love the park and wish to support it. We host a variety of events in the Park itself, for example to promote the Park to those who might not usually visit, and other events to raise funds. Members of the Friends also receive newsletters three or four times a year with information about our events with offers and early bookings. Information about the Friends, our events and how to join us can be found at www.cattonpark.com.

On Tuesday 6 June we will be holding our AGM at 7 for 7:30 pm in Buxton Lodge in the Park which gives everyone the opportunity to hear about what we have been doing in the past year. All are welcome to attend although only members may vote. We are looking for a treasurer. This year we hope to have an update from Catton Park Trust. We will be joined by David Weaver who will be giving a talk on Broadland Country Park. Refreshments will be available. At the 2022 AGM we were delighted to give a donation of £5,000 to Catton Park Trust. We also sponsored a tree planted in the park to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

In the summer we are planning a Moth event, which will involve setting traps one evening and returning the next morning to see which moths have been active in the Park. We are also planning a bat walk. Watch out for more information on these events.

On Saturday 2 September we are excited to be hosting a willow weaving workshop. Participants will create a pheasant from willow under expert tuition. The cost for the day is £38 for members and £45 for non-members. We look forward to seeing you there! Advance booking is essential. Please contact Gill on 01603 484073 for more information or to book your place.



Our third Lantern Parade takes place on Friday 20 October. Last year over 320 children, adults and dogs joined us on this free family parade from the Spixworth Road entrance, past the Church Street entrance and along the main track down to Buxton Lodge. Hot chocolate and bucket chips were enjoyed by many.

In November we look forward to our very popular Quiz Night! Our quiz returned earlier this year after the break due to Covid-19 with a slight change. Instead of fish and chips we served delicious home cooked chilli. As usual the teams competed hard with a very close finish.

Other events have included the Easter Egg Hunt in April in which 190 children took part – the biggest hunt yet! Children searched the woodlands for cardboard eggs which they exchanged for a chocolate bunny and a bun with squash. Last October our friends at ParkRun donated cakes and other baked goodies for a bake sale which raised a good amount of money. Early in May about 28 people joined us for an early morning bird walk followed by bacon baps and coffee in the Lodge. Despite the disappointing weather we spotted about 20 species. Later in May our Open Gardens event attracted over 115 visitors who enjoyed visiting six very different gardens in the lovely spring sunshine and homemade refreshments. Our thanks to Sarah and Gail at the Parish office for selling tickets on our behalf for these events.

Other ways to support the Park are to purchase packs of greetings cards. These packs comprise 6 cards featuring photographs taken in the Park by local residents. They are just £6 for a pack and are available from the Parish Council Offices in Church Street and at our events. Although not a Friends' initiative we are pleased to promote the glass recycling scheme in the village. If you pop your glass into the banks either at Morrisons or the Maids Head and Woodman pubs this raises money directly for the Park. You can also recycle card and paper at Morrisons. It's a bit less convenient than using the grey bins but really makes a difference.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who help at our events and in other ways – we could not do without them! Each volunteer is greatly valued and we appreciate their time. If you are interested in helping at any of our events you would be most welcome. Contact details below.

Finally we would like to congratulate Old Catton Parish Council for the successful purchase of the Deer Park, ensuring that it continues to be a green open space in our village and maintaining the open view looking east from Catton Hall. Our thanks to the hard work of all those involved.

If you would like to sign up for any event or join the Friends please do get in touch with us – email us at friends@cattonpark.com or telephone Gill, our secretary, on 01603 484073. Membership rates start at just £8 for a year's membership.





Friends of Catton Park—Membership Application Form

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss etc)			
First Name		Surname	
Partner's Name (if Joint)			
Children's Names (for Family Membership) or Cor-			
Address			
Postcode			
Phone number (optional)			
E-mail address			
Do you wish to receive newsletters etc. electronically		Yes/No	
Type of Membership	(Please tick relevant box)		
Full – Single person (£10)		Full – Couple (£17)	
Concession* – Single person (£8)		Concession* – Couple (£13)	
Family (£21)		Young Person (u18) (£2.50)	
Corporate/ Affiliate Group Membership (£50) @		Number of members/ employees in Corporate / Affiliate	
Would you be willing to spare your time to help at events run by FOCP or Catton Park Trust?			Yes/No
<p><i>Please make cheques payable to Friends of Catton Park or Standing Orders to Friends of Catton Park, Cooperative Bank, Sort Code 089299, Account 65170111. Please return the form with membership fee to Stephen Osborn, 44 Oak Lane, Old Catton, Norwich NR6 7DD.</i></p> <p><i>Alternatively if you wish to pay online please use the bank details including your surname as reference and email your details to friends@cattonpark.com. Thank you so much for your support.</i></p>			

* Concession available to those who are unwaged, over state pension age or disabled

@ For Corporate Membership, please enter a contact name and address in the first three boxes

44th NORWICH (1ST OLD CATTON) SCOUT GROUP



Since we were last in touch, we've done so much and been to so many places. Our International Jamboree Camp to Denmark last summer was a fantastic hit as our Scouts camped for a week with thousands of others, participated in all sorts of activities and made so many friends. This event really did emphasise the world-wide scale of Scouting and that there are no borders in our movement.



Closer to home, all the sections have been busy with their own adventures, having fun and learning 'skills-for-life'. Our youngest section, the Beavers, visited the Aviation Museum and learned all about aircraft old and new. Staying in the sky, they then spent time looking at the stars and making their own spaceships from old junk. The Beavers have also been investigating the issues around homelessness and how they can help people in need. A sleepover is planned for the coming months; imagine a sleepover with 40 of your best friends – what an adventure and what fun!

The Cubs have just come back from their nights-away adventure. They all went to Reepham for a weekend where they rode on a steam train, had a go at air-rifle shooting, hiked around the local area – oh those aching feet - and did all the traditional things like camp-fire cooking, singing songs and of course, loads of sleep too (well the second night at least). They're all looking forward to the better weather now and a bug-hunting event in Catton Park, cycling and a litter pick to help the community.



The Scouts, our 'big' boys and girls, continue to gather all their hard-earned experience from the younger sections by being more independent, having more of a say in the organisation and venturing further afield. In February, the Scouts spent a day with the Norfolk Broads Authority at Barton Turf completing their own community project by working with the staff to clear areas of shrubland whilst learning about the history of the Broads. Also in February, they had their first night-away of the year, sleeping in bivouacs made from tarpaulins and erected using only rope. Yes it was cold, but true to the Scout motto, 'Be Prepared', they were all adequately fed with hot food and drinks before settling down for the night in copious layers of clothes. Although quite cautious at first, they all had a comfortable night and there were beaming smiles from all in the morning, especially when the hot porridge was served. The Scouts have also just walked to the bottom (the beach) and the top (Beacon Hill) of Norfolk on a day out map-reading and navigating (that was a long away up (not)!)!

The Group as a whole, continues to grow, but as always, we could always do more if we had additional volunteers to help offer our young people more chances to take part in fabulous activities. We are considering opening a 'Squirrels' section (for 4-6 year olds), so we would especially welcome interest from anybody who might like to help with the setting up a new chapter in our history at 44th Norwich. Come and join our fabulous team of volunteers, you'll always be made welcome. Please email Group Scout Leader: wings@oldcattonscouts.org.uk

We have other challenges too; the HQ roof needs attention and as we are all aware, running costs have risen dramatically, so we're looking for more ways to raise funds. As a reminder, our hall is available for hire for parties or regular group classes/meetings etc, so, please do get in touch with us if we can be of assistance.

CATTON BOWLS

Members of one of the longest-established bowls club in the parish are looking forward to the new season with great enthusiasm. While Catton Bowls Club has a loyal but small membership, there's plenty of opportunity to take up this under-rated outdoor activity.

We are family friendly and inclusive. Our membership currently consists of both male and female, experienced players and beginners, teenagers to pensioners. We are looking for new members who are interested in returning to bowls or who would just like to try something new. We have plenty of experienced players who would be willing to give practical help, so don't worry if you've not played before or don't have your own bowls. We play most nights, either home or away, our home nights are mainly Tuesday and Friday so with some exceptions you can play as little or as much as you like, everyone gets an opportunity so, give bowls a chance.

Costs are £2.50 per game and if you wish to sign up as a full member there is a £10 membership fee. If you wish to trial the 1st year, have a practice and act as reserve when we are short, this initial membership would be waived and just the £2.50 a game would apply.

Thanks go to Old Catton Parish Council, the Recreation Ground bowling green is widely regarded as one of the better ones in the district. We are very grateful to our league rivals Wensum Bowls Club who share the green and have been very helpful and supportive of our club.

If you would like details, contact the Chairman Mike Conroy on 07932 841081, or the team captain Danny Leech on 01603 485922. if you are interested or have any questions please contact me and we can have a chat and I can send further details if you require.

Mike Conroy (Chairman Catton Bowls Club) - Email : Conroy-michael2@sky.com



OLD CATTON CRICKET CLUB

With the cricket season fast approaching, Old Catton Cricket Club this year, will run once again with two sides. The first XI competing in the Norfolk Cricket League Division 1 East and the A team competing in the Norfolk Cricket League Division 3 East. Alongside this there is a Sunday side playing friendly's up until August, with a 20/20 side playing midweek friendly's. As always new players are welcome

Old Catton Recreation Ground will host Dynamos cricket starting May 23rd every Tuesday 6-7pm for 8 weeks.

These sessions are aimed at children between 8 and 11 year old, all welcome no matter what ability or experience with cricket. The sessions are run by several of our first and A team players, for further details, please contact Zac Fisher on Fisherz538@gmail.com

If you have any interest in playing cricket or would like to sponsor the team in any capacity, please feel free to contact Paul Prime on Pabsprime@gmail.com Alternatively, you can follow Old Catton Cricket Club on the below formats:-

Instagram - @Oldcattoncricket club

Play Cricket – www.oldcatton.play-cricket.com

Facebook - @Oldcatton cricket club



OLD CATTON BOWLS CLUB

Members old and new are anticipating a splendid season, Thanks to the hard work carried out by the grounds staff in the close season. The newly installed watering system should ensure a top-quality green all season.

Last season our numbers increased, and the new members thoroughly enjoyed the friendly competition in the fresh air.

Our Thursday afternoon play commenced mid-April. At the moment we have not met our maximum membership, so why not give the sport a try? No experience is necessary, and we have a selection of bowls you can borrow (please wear flat soled shoes). You will find we are a friendly lot!

For more information, come along between 2.00 and 4.00 any Thursday or please e-mail: oldcattonbowlsclub@gmail.com

Keith Meader
Old Catton Bowls Club secretary.

OLD CATTON EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, we have been busy – as always. We very much enjoyed being part of the community celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee, where our crafters had lovely chats with interested guests and lots of people had fun with our “bigger buns” photo board! A small group also entered the Norfolk Federation’s Centenary Salver crafting competitions, coming joint first in April 2022 and fourth in April 2023. These group projects are always enjoyable ... especially as it’s important to meet regularly and keep taste-testing the baking elements!

A focus of any WI are the monthly meetings, where members get together and normally welcome a guest speaker. Ours are held at 7.30 pm on the third Wednesday evening of each month. These meetings are always free to attend: they are included in the membership subscription.

We are very grateful to our Programme Secretary Sally Reeve, who has been determined to find us informative and entertaining speakers. When we were able to start meeting in the Village Hall again after the pandemic she said, “I think people just need cheering up” and that has been her guiding principle ever since! We have had local history, a forensic handwriting workshop, travelogues ... highlights have also included Old Catton’s finest Barry Leggett telling us about his time as a young policeman checking the locks on Magdalen Street, and retired Bluebell Girl Jane Hoggar delivering a hugely enjoyable talk featuring audience participation.

After refreshments we have our ‘business’ meeting, where we share notices and opportunities. Our regular activities are:

- Craft group – first Thursday of the month, 1.30 – 3.30 pm at the Pavilion in Old Catton Recreation Ground;
- Book group – second Thursday of the month, 2-4 pm (occasional changes to location);
- Darts group – every Tuesday, 2-4 pm at the Church Hall;
- Strollers group – 10.30 am on the fourth Wednesday of the month; we usually walk for about 3.5 miles with lunch afterwards. We stroll with members of Sprowston WI.
- (Our Gardening group is currently full.)

As I write this, we have just had a very enjoyable birthday lunch at Stower Grange and are looking forward to “Tea on the Train” on the North Norfolk Railway. Anyone who belongs to a WI is also a member of the local federation and the national WI too, with lots of courses, activities and social activities available at these levels too.



Of course, we have also seen our share of sadness and illness amongst the group, but fun and friendship help to keep us all going. If you’d like to come along to a meeting to see if it could be for you, you’d be very welcome – just contact President Lorna Brigden on 07794 714621 or me: shelaghn7@gmail.com

Best wishes for a good summer to all local residents from everyone at Old Catton WI.



“BIGGER BUNS”

Old Catton

GARAGE



Sunday 23rd July 2023 10am—3pm

Stalls cost £5 for each participating household
To register your address and to be included on the map please
e-mail assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Maps (£1 each) will be available from 9.45am on 23rd July at the
Recreation Ground Pavilion, Church Street, Old Catton, NR6 7DS

Closing date for Registration 7th July 2023

Contacting The Clerk's Office

The Clerk's Office can be found at the Recreation
Ground Pavilion, Church Street, Old Catton,
Norwich, NR6 7DS and is open to the public
Monday to Friday from 9am – 4pm.

Telephone: 01603 423880

Email:

clerk@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk or
assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Meetings are held on the
second Monday of each month. Please
contact the Clerk for further information.

More information is available on the Parish
Council noticeboards and website

www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk



CATTON PARK, NORWICH, NR6 7DB

7th—9th July & 14th—16th July

Matinee & Evening Performances



For more information and to book
tickets from £10 contact:-

[https://www.circuscortex.com/
tickets](https://www.circuscortex.com/tickets)

Alice Through The Looking Glass

Open Air Theatre

Catton Park, Norwich NR6 7DB

Saturday 22nd July 1—3pm



Join a troupe of professional
actors as they take you on a
journey into the delightfully
strange world of the
Looking Glass! Bring a
picnic, and dress up as your
favourite character too!

Suitable for all ages

To book tickets, contact-

[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/strange-
fascination-theatre](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/strange-fascination-theatre)

Catton Park
29th June to 2nd July



[https://www.facebook.com/people/L-Gray-
Sons-FunFair/](https://www.facebook.com/people/L-Gray-Sons-FunFair/)



Old Catton Warm Welcome is held on the 1st and 3rd
Tuesday of each month, 10.30am—1pm at the
Recreation Ground Pavilion. Join us for a cuppa, cake
and company. Open to all.

If you would like further information about the Warm
Welcome or how to contact any of the clubs and
societies in Old Catton, please contact Old Catton
Parish Council: on 01603 423880 or
assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Editors: Sarah Vincent and Gail Howes

Old Catton Parish Council, The Pavilion, Church Street, Old Catton, NR6 7DS