



Annual Report 1st April 2023—31st March 2024

I am pleased to report that it has been another successful year for Old Catton and the Parish Council. Your Parish Councillors have tirelessly pushed forward the interests of the Parish and are working hard to achieve the best results possible. Our Council is somewhat depleted with only 9 individuals standing for election last year but those Members are an enthusiastic hardworking team with a common goal to see our community improve and change for the better. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please see our website for more information and how to apply (www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk)

This year the Parish Council has continued supporting our community. We support the WI by providing space for the “Warm Welcome” Coffee Morning to residents – offering a warm welcoming space to those residents who may be finding the energy and cost of living crisis difficult, may be seeking company or simply want a change of scenery in a friendly environment. This runs twice a month (1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month). We continue to support the Royal British Legion and Catton Park and Friends of Catton Park through the selling of tickets for the Easter Egg Hunt and similar events and by selling greeting cards. Another successful Garage Sale was held at the end of July with over 40 houses taking part in the event; this annual event is ever popular and brings a lovely sense of community to the Parish. We are looking to run this again in August 2024—see the last page for more information. Community litter picks have also been organised, the last one (held in March) seeing over x30 people attending and collecting x21 bags of rubbish.

The Council continues to proudly support the youth of our community; through Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) at the Recreation Ground via the Old Catton Youth Group (Thursday), through the LGBTQ bi-weekly group (Wednesday) and by supporting the SYEP Old Catton youth football teams (U12s and U14s) who practise on Tuesday evenings and have played matches on Saturdays. We continue to welcome and support youth netball through the weekly training 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.

The Parish Council has continued to strongly support Old Catton Junior Football Club who use the Parish Council owned site at Lavaré Park. Planning application for the improvement of facilities at Lavaré Park using CIL funds was submitted last year and is awaiting Planning Authority decision. This new Clubhouse will provide improved facilities for the Club together with a large community space (150 person capacity) with facilities available for hire. The ever increasing popularity and membership numbers of the Club have caused local parking issues which the Club has worked hard, with the Parish Council support, to alleviate.

With the restart of playing season we look forward to welcoming back our sports groups who use the Recreation Ground as their home ground – Old Catton Cricket Club, Thoroughbreds Netball and our three bowls clubs (Wensum, Catton and Old Catton teams). Our newly installed booking system for tennis is up and running which we hope will make playing tennis at the Recreation Ground much easier – court bookings can be made through www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/old-catton-recreation-ground. We are lucky to have such wonderful facilities at the Recreation Ground and it is a pleasure to see so many people using and enjoying them.

We celebrated the King’s Coronation in May 2023 with a free event at the Recreation Ground. Information stalls, children’s activities, fairground rides, “shoot a goal”, bar and live music from Terry Adams and friends were enjoyed by all who attended. It was a wonderful way to bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities and I thank all who supported the event despite the rain.

This year our Head Groundsman, Ross, together with our grounds staff have worked tirelessly against all weather conditions to ensure that all the Parish Council facilities are of the very best standard. Bowls and cricket continued to be enjoyed by our resident teams, equipment was maintained, maintenance was carried out. The grounds staff 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 Neil for their hard work during this year and thanks also to Darren and Max who are no longer working for the Parish Council.

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr B Sabberton-Coe (Chairman)
01603 483976

62 Garrick Green, NR6 7AN

Mr G Tingle, 07901 525052

(Vice-Chairman)

36 Mousehold Lane, NR6 8HA

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 M Vincent, 01603 485460

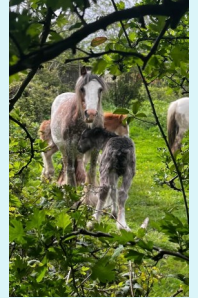
4 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND

Miss P Wilkin, 01603 781050

Church Barn, NR13 6QT

Old Catton Parish Council Annual Report Continued....

During the year we have continued to make improvements around the Parish; replacement tree and hedging has been installed, new methods of site management have been implemented, boundary fencing at the Recreation Ground has been installed, community orchard with historic fruit trees at Woodham Leas has been planted. Some tree maintenance has been carried out on the Deer Park and we have worked together with the Wildlife Trust to submit enhanced County Wildlife Site application to further acknowledge the vast diversity of flora and fauna within the Deer Park. At time of writing we are also very pleased to note the arrival of 2 foals again this year. We have also taken on the running of the Allotments and are looking to make improvements in the running of the site. If you would like to be added to the waiting list for an allotment please contact the Clerk's Office. Moving into 2024, the Parish Council looks forward to continuing to find ways to improve our Parish – if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk's Office.



Looking forward to next year (2024/25) we have all seen newspaper reports that development work on the fields near Morrisons and Lavaré Park as part of the Beeston Park development will commence shortly. This will have a significant effect on our Parish – firstly by the large increase in housing in the area and the impact this will have on our resources (surgeries, schools, etc) until these are addressed with the rest of the Beeston Park development and secondly with the additional CIL/S106 funding that will be available to the Parish for infrastructure. The Parish Council also looks forward to receiving approved planning consent for both the Lavaré Park Clubhouse and Recreation Ground Pavilion redevelopment projects to improve and update facilities for our community to enjoy.



We start 2024 with a few staff vacancies at the Council. Grounds Person, Administration Officer and Park Assistant (Catton Park) positions are currently being advertised. We are looking for individuals who wish to make a positive impact in the local community – hopefully these positions will be quickly filled. If you are interested in applying (deadline for applications is 18th May 2024) please visit our website: www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/council-information/vacancies.html. I thank those former job incumbents for their hard work and support, and wish them well for the future.

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 personal thanks to Sarah for all her help and support throughout this last year.

Mr Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Chairman

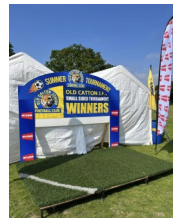


OLD CATTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

Old Catton JFC has been fortunate to have enjoyed another successful season both on and off the pitch. Fortunate? Well that's down to the amazing volunteers that make it happen for the upwards of 300 local children that play here.

The 2023/24 season has seen girls only teams at under 9 and 11 play in the yellow and blue for the first time in many years, many of whom having successfully graduated from the Wildcats fun football for girls on Friday evenings at Lavare Park. The club is now actively looking to augment the provision of girls football given its growing popularity. The club also saw it's Under 6 intake enjoy their first steps in playing football under the watchful eye of Alan Crowe and this season has been noteworthy as Alan passed his 80th birthday (Alan has been with Old Catton Juniors too many years to mention).

Elsewhere, our playing membership has held its own against the cost of living crisis with the constant battle to minimise membership fees whilst investing in infrastructure, kit and equipment, a challenge indeed, and on that note a huge thankyou to the Parish Council for their ongoing support and to Councillor Ken Leggett for assisting the club to purchase a new set of portable goals. With new portable goals on all pitches, this means they can be moved to alleviate wear and tear within the penalty areas providing better pitches. The club also continues to invest in the pitches and is part of the FA pitch improvement programme.



Off the field we are hopeful that the plans to build a new pavilion, that can be enjoyed by all our community, manifests in bricks and mortar at some point in the near future and with it, facilities that not just the club, but the whole community here in Old Catton deserves.

The club is always on the lookout for volunteers, sharing our passion, to help bring our national winter game to the local children and if you think you can help in any way or simply wish to get in touch you can do so via Facebook (Old Catton JFC), X (@Old CattonJFC) or via our website www.oldcattonjfc.co.uk.

Kevin Brown, Chairman



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.

2023 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 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 Swansgate) 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 is planned with two Shows, 3 trips, a Plant and Cake Sale, Members Open Gardens and some Socials all in the pipeline. This year we had 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

DATE OF NEXT SNAP MEETING

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th June 2024 at 7pm at the Diamond Centre, Sprowston.

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

The Parish Council remains vigilant in making sure that all the amenities within Old Catton are in good working order but sometimes we do miss things. Please can you help us by reporting any maintenance issues, however small, to the Clerk's Office by email: assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk or on 01603 423880.

Maybe it's a streetlight that is not working, or is on 24 hours a day, graffiti on a bus shelter or play equipment vandalised. Or perhaps it is a street name that is broken or missing. Whatever it is, please do get in touch and don't just assume that we already know about it or that your neighbours have reported it onto us.



CATTON PARK TRUST

2023 has been another good year for the Park. Ongoing maintenance has continued with tree and shrub planting, woodland management, grass cutting, pond improvements, extensive path maintenance including installation of new tread and never-ending litter picking continues to ensure that Catton Park remains the Jewel in Old Catton's Crown. This is reflected in the Park being awarded the Green Flag Community Award for the 7th year running – we are immensely proud the Park has again been awarded this international quality mark.



Footfall has continued to grow and, despite a few issues reported on social media of inconsiderate dog owners, the Park remains a popular and enjoyable destination for residents and visitors to the Parish. We hope that visitors to the Park will continue to be mindful and respectful of all users so that everyone can enjoy this wonderful space. We would also remind users that dog foul and rubbish should be placed in the bins provided and not left to spoil the Park; these bins are a considerable expense to the Park, it is a shame that not everyone uses them.

We welcomed Larry Gray & Sons Fun Fair, Circus CORTEX and the ever popular Strange Fascination Outdoor Theatre to the Park again this year, it was lovely to see so many people enjoying these events. Friends of Catton Park hosted the annual Lantern Parade which, due to bad weather was rescheduled to one of the coldest evenings of the year; this didn't appear to dampen the mood of those attending and it was lovely to see so many lanterns moving along the main drive through the Park. The Friends also hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt with record attendance once again.

Looking to 2024 the following events will be taking place with full details being posted on our website, social media and on posters:



20th – 23rd June: Larry Gray & Sons Fun Fair with the dinosaurs in attendance during on Sunday!

5th-7th July and 12th-14th July: Circus CORTEX

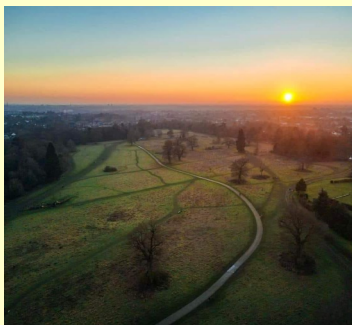
October: Friends of Catton Park Lantern Walk

The Park receives a small annual grant from Natural England so raising funds for the sustainability of the Park is a high priority. 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.

The Park would not continue looking as good as it does without our dedicated team. My thanks go to our regular volunteers, John and Jonathan and to our Park Assistant Amy Henderson for their hard work and efforts maintaining the Park. Unfortunately Amy has decided to move onto pastures new and we wish her well for the future. Finally I would like to personally thank our Warden, Matt Caley for his management, hard work and tireless patience in ensuring that Catton Park remains Old Catton's Jewel.

Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Chairman, Catton Park Trust Ltd

Supporting Catton Park



Did you know there are many ways you can help towards the running costs of Catton Park? Catton Park costs over £70,000 p/year to maintain (the emptying dog bins costs over £5,000 p/year alone); any support our residents can give is greatly appreciated. You can support by putting your glass/paper in the recycling bins at The Woodman PH, Maids Head PH, Morrisons and The Old Rectory, Crostwick. Purchasing a weekly lottery ticket through Broadland District Council's Community At Heart Lottery www.communityatheartlottery.com provides the Park with 50p from every £1 ticket purchased. You can also give a donation every time you shop online through www.easyfundraising.co.uk. We also have JustGiving and GoFundMe pages (www.justgiving.com/cattonpark) (www.gofundme.com/f/raise-funds-towards-running-costs-of-catton-park).

MESSAGE FROM PC GRAHAM GILL

My role as Beat Manager is to ensure Old Catton remains a friendly, safe place to live and work all year round. To do this, I work in partnership with local organisations such as councils, businesses, and schools to tackle any issues that arise, take part in regular community events, and work on the priorities for the area, voted on by residents.



One of the priorities often nominated is road safety. Several measures, including increased speed checks, road safety operations and bicycle safety campaigns have been completed in the last year to tackle the issue, and I will continue to raise awareness and enforce safety for all road users.



Another priority regularly adopted is anti-social behaviour. There can sometimes be a spike in these reports over the warmer months, but I'm really pleased with the low number of reported incidents in the past year. Park Walk Talks and high-visibility patrols of residential areas and open spaces will continue—come and say hello if you see me out and about!

I encourage anyone who wants to discuss a local problem to come along to community meetings (held every three months), street surgeries, or by emailing me at SNTSprowston@norfolk.police.uk. If you wish to make an official report about an incident, please use our website www.norfolk.police.uk or call 101.

Always call 999 for an emergency or crime in progress.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

2023 has once more been a busy year for St. Margaret's Church. It is lovely to have had new people join us, not only in our congregation but also at our various groups that meet in the church and hall.

There is the knit and natter group who meet in church the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm, then we have the Women's Group in the church hall on the 3rd Monday of each month at 8pm and on the 4th Monday at 7.45pm The Evening Mother's Union gathers in the hall. Quarterly on Saturdays there is the Men's Breakfast.

Coffee, Chat and company goes from strength to strength in the church hall offering a place where people can meet, chat and have refreshments, term time on a Friday from 9am to 11.30am.

The hall continues to be a place of gathering for various uniformed groups and other regular activities and is also there for one off events, such as birthday parties and baby showers.

Details of all these are available in "The Magazine" which is produced and distributed by the church. The publication includes information on various other groups in Old Catton, the work of the parish council as well as businesses and other contact numbers that may be useful to know. The monthly magazine is 60p and you can pick up a copy in church with details of how to subscribe and have it delivered.



The church has held various special services during the year and welcomed over 260 people for Remembrance Sunday including the uniformed youth groups. Christmas was also a very busy time with the church full for the candlelight carols service and midnight mass. It has also been great to welcome Old Catton Junior School and Hall School into church for services as we continue to build links between our local schools and church.

Alongside services we had an organ recital by Elizabeth Vennard and a viewing of her artwork, there was the Christmas fair, harvest supper and lent lunch which raised money for the new Priscila Bacon Hospice. Then there are the special life event services of weddings, baptisms, and funerals where the church comes alongside people's lives.

Things have not been easy for the church as like many organisations we struggle with finances as we rely solely on donations and fees for life events. It is a constant battle to keep the church going so that it is available for future generations.

Our regular weekly services on Wednesday 10am and Sunday 8am and 10am take place and 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.

We hope that the church will remain a place of peace and support for the people of Old Catton and a part of the life of the community.

Revd David Hagan-Palmer





GIRLGUIDING CATTON DISTRICT

Old Catton and Spixworth have Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers which cater for girls from 4yr to 18yr olds. Below are a few examples of what the units have been up to.



1st Old Catton Brownies had a fun and busy time last term visiting the fire station (and get to use the hose!), celebrating Chinese New Year and the Leap Year, we invited the Mum's to join us for Mother's Day activities and had our Gal-entines party! Plus we were lucky enough to be visited by a guide dog, got to have a go at learning braille and using a cane.

This term we've got lots planned including a treasure hunt, visit to the challenge woods and a sleepover at the trampoline park!



1st and 2nd Old Catton Guides have had an adventurous year with a weekend to Belgium via Eurostar, finding out about the local culture and why Belgium is famous for its Chocolate. We have also completed trips outside the county to Oxford, stayed in Norfolk and done a weekend to Sheringham, Patterson Lodge and High Altitude sleepover. Our weekly meetings have seen over 50 Guides complete minutes and skill builders towards their awards seeing 4 Girls achieve GOLD.

Rangers are the 14-18yrs opportunity for young women from Girlguiding. This term Old Catton Rangers have been Adventuring Around the World for a challenge badge, exploring new places without leaving Old Catton! They have made Pretzels from Germany, crafted Belgian Chocolates, exploded some Icelandic Volcanoes, carved new masterpieces from Senegal clay, held a Chinese tea tasting session and tried their hand at Japanese Origami. This term started with a surprise trip to do Tubing at their local Snowsports centre - here's a group of them dropping from a great height! Where will their next adventure take them?



The one thing we need now to keep these adventures going is volunteers. Please contact our District Commissioners [on oldcattondistrictcommissioner@gmail.com](mailto:oldcattondistrictcommissioner@gmail.com) or via the community groups facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/share/bSmzhEBmxU5KijAG/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Catherine Clarke—District Commissioner



D-DAY COMMORATION— 6TH JUNE 2024

6th June 2024 marks the 80th Anniversary of the allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. This was the largest Land, Naval and Air Operation in history. The Royal British Legion will be marking this event by raising a commemorative flag at the War Memorial at 9am on 6th June. The flag will then remain at the War Memorial until 14th June.

Spectators are very welcome to attend.

WHAT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL DO?

Old Catton Parish Council serves a population of 6,241 people. There are currently 9 Councillors (all volunteers) who represent the entire Parish. The services provided by the Parish Council includes the upkeep of the Recreation Ground, maintenance of the cemetery and closed churchyard, War Memorial, village sign, Catton Park, Deer Park, green spaces, allotments, street lighting, bus shelters, grass verges.

Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6.30pm in the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings to hear about the Council's plans and activities and there is an opportunity for members of the public to speak. A copy of the monthly Agenda is posted on our website and on the village noticeboards.

OLD CATTON SPRING CLEAN

Huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Spring Clean Litter pick on Sunday 24th March 2024. Over 30 people attended (of all ages) which was our highest attendance to date! A staggering 21 bags of rubbish were collected.



THE OLD CATTON SOCIETY



The Old Catton Society is a charity which was founded in 1987. The idea was to record and maintain the history of Old Catton and preserve the character of the village. Over the years we have collected an extensive archive; details available on our website: www.oldcattonsociety.org.uk

Our members meet on the third Thursday of each month, except for August, in the Village Hall.

The members enjoy the ambience of the Hall and have a range of guest speakers each month on a variety of subjects with coffee and biscuits afterwards.

Our project this year is to erect another information board in the village, similar to the one in Church Street.

This year's outing is to Ely on Wednesday 24th July with a boat trip in the afternoon. Anyone wishing to join us please contact Judy on Judycleggett@gmail.com. The cost is £30.

If you would like to join the Society it is £20 for the year. Guests are welcome at £3 each meeting. Contact Judy on the above email address.

Barry Leggett—Chairman

REPORTING A PROBLEM

Pot holes, drainage, roads signs, highway damage, traffic lights grass verges, etc —report to: www.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysproblem



Norfolk
County Council

REPORTING A PROBLEM

Flytipping, lost/damaged bins, damaged street signs, street cleaning, street bin/dog bin emptying, nuisance/noise — report to: www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/report-it



KAREN VINCENT—YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR REPORTING BACK

I would like to thank the Parish Council for giving me this opportunity to report back on local issues.

In January I applied for a '**Clean Up and Bloom**' grant to help tidy and brighten up our village. I am pleased to advise the application was successful and we now have a few hundred pounds to buy plants and bulbs for planting across Old Catton. Thank you to all who replied to my request, in Old Catton News, of what you would like to see planted and where. If you didn't see this and have ideas or you would like to join me and a small team of volunteers to plant or litter pick please get in touch.

Beeston Park Development is likely to start this year. I know it's been said before. In fact, plans for 3500 new homes north of Old Catton/Sprowston have been talked about for many years. Outline plans were approved in early 2019 but all has been quiet until recently when I was told the site had changed hands with new plans being worked up.

I have since met BDC Planners and Quinn Estates (the 'master developer') to find out more. Quinn Estates confirmed Phase 1 will be built on the field behind Westacre Drive/Edgefield Close and they will focus first on building the 'East West' link road from St Faith's Road to Spixworth Road, which is likely to start later this year. I will continue to take an active interest as the scale of proposals will inevitably impact on our community and local amenities, especially while being built out and I want to ensure you are kept informed. As soon as we receive detailed plans I shall arrange a community event to share these for you to see.

Highways, Footpaths etc – if you notice something needing attention please tell me and I will take the matter up. As your County Councillor I am allocated £11,000 each year to spend on highway safety, paths and environmental projects. I've used this to fund safety railings/posts outside White Woman Lane School, footpath repairs in Burma Road and Wreningham Road and for grit bins requested for Blacksmiths Way by the slope to Church Street, The Paddocks and Tills Close by the footpath. I now have my allocation for 2024/25 and look forward to hearing from you how this should best be spent.

I genuinely believe we can achieve more when we work together. Projects like 'Clean Up and Bloom' and Oakfield Gardens Community Orchard offer such opportunities to improve our community. If you would like to join in with planting, litter picks or caring for the orchard. That would be wonderful and I would love to hear from you.

Working for you - to represent you effectively it is important I know what concerns you. I am here to help so please get in touch.

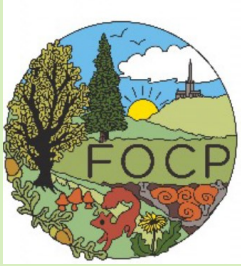
Email: karen.vincent2.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Best wishes, Karen

Tel: (01603) 989856



FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK



Old Catton is a great place to live and perhaps Catton Park is its jewel in the crown. Many of you will have visited this beautiful green space. The Friends of Catton Park are marking the 20th Anniversary of our formation this year! We are a group of local people who love the park and wish to support it. We do this by hosting a variety of events both in the Park itself, for example to promote the Park to those who might not usually visit, and other events to raise funds. 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. We are also looking for people who would be interested in joining the committee. We are a friendly group, meeting four or five times a year to plan events. Please contact us if you might be interested.

Our next event is a talk by Matt Wickens from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Matt will be telling us about the Sweet Briar Marshes reserve, just down the road from Old Catton. The talk is on Tuesday 14 May in Buxton Lodge in the picnic area in the Park. Doors open at 7 pm. The talk will be preceded by our AGM and an update from Catton Park Trust. All are welcome – the event is free. Refreshments will be available. Donations for the evening will be appreciated.

On Saturday 8 June we are hosting an Open Gardens event, with gardens open around the village for visitors. Tickets are £7 per person, which includes refreshments – a hot drink with either a sausage roll or soup or a scone.

Other events in 2024 include a Moth event, a bird walk, the Lantern Parade and a quiz night later in the year.



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

Last summer we held our first Moths in the Park event which was very interesting. On a Saturday evening in August three moth traps were set up in the picnic area by Nick and Felix.

During the evening the traps collected moths which were then identified. These traps were left overnight. On Sunday morning all moths and other insects in the traps were identified and safely released. Around 25 different species of moth were identified. The morning also included breakfast snacks.

In September we were excited to be hosting a willow weaving workshop. Participants created a pheasant from willow under expert tuition. This was a super event and we hope to repeat it in future making a different item. We also held two bat walks led by Jen. The first walk was so popular that we held a second later in September.



Our third Lantern Parade eventually took place on the coldest night of autumn in 2023 – but it was great! People turned up, took part and enjoyed a light show at the end of the walk with well deserved hot chocolate!

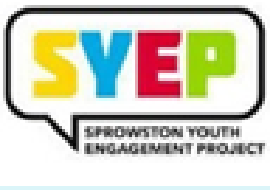
During the year we held two very popular Quiz nights with home cooked chilli. It is fair to say that competition is fierce at these evenings, which are always very enjoyable. We also recently held the Easter Egg Hunt in April at which 190 children took part! Children searched the woodlands for cardboard eggs which they exchanged for a chocolate bunny and a bun with squash. Cakes and coffee were also on sale for adults to enjoy. We were fortunate that we had a lovely, dry morning for the Hunt.

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. Membership is another easy way to support the Park. 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.

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. Application form is available on the Catton Park website— www.cattonpark.com/friends-of-catton-park

SPROWSTON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT



SYEP is 11 years old, which is an amazing achievement for us as a Charity.

This year has been another great year in terms of engagement and development. The project has engaged with 610 young people through the various projects we provide which are delivered six days a week. Many of these young people were engaged through outreach and our activities days last year. We have seen increases across all our projects – over the past year we engaged 69 young people through our Old Catton Youth Group alone.

SYEP delivers projects six days a week in Old Catton and Sprowston:

Thursday Youth Drop in Old Catton

Numbers have been increasing each week, and on average, 50 young people attend each session, with a core group of 70 young people who attend regularly. Groups are made up of different friendship groups, but due to the space of the Rec sessions, they are generally very chilled out. Sessions are attended every week by LB Coaching, who deliver football sessions as this is what the young people want. We cook food every week and have tried to focus on healthy eating. Most of the young people attending come from Old Catton. We also have some young people attend from Mile Cross, Fiddlewood and Sprowston.

BLAH – LGBTQ+ youth group

Old Catton Blah is a project that has been running for over two and a half years, and it's great that we can continue to support the young people who identify as LGBTQ+ in the local area. The project is in partnership with SYEP and the Norfolk LGBT Project. We do many activities, including film nights, decorating gingerbread men, having board game nights, and having interesting conversations about LGBTQ+ topics, including what it's like living as an LGBTQ+ person, health, culture, and history.



SYEP FC

SYEP currently has an U12's and an U14's team who both train on Tuesday evenings. The U12's train from 5 pm to 6 pm, and the U14's train from 6 pm until 7 pm. The teams are coached by LB Coaching and our new coach, Henry. This season, we have played in the Christian League, and there has been a league for both age ranges. There is only one other team in the league, but we have worked closely with the league to rebuild it, and there has been a lot of interest, so we are looking forward to next season when we will have an U12, U14, and U16 team.



OLD CATTON BOWLS CLUB



There is always excitement at this time of year for Old Catton Bowls Club Members. Enjoying the thought of a new season and meeting up with other members, some of whom prefer to “rest” during the winter in preference to playing indoor bowls. Thanks to the hard work carried out by the grounds staff in the close season, this year particularly, in view of the difficult weather conditions, we look forward to a “smooth running” 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 (it is likely to be slightly later this year).

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

44th NORWICH (1ST OLD CATTON) SCOUT GROUP



This year sees our Group celebrate its 50th anniversary, and we are beginning to plan how we will celebrate this. We couldn't be more proud of all the young people and leaders currently with us, and we are immensely grateful for all who have joined us over the years! In the run up to this celebration, we're looking back on this past year with fondness as we've hosted many incredible activities and events.

Starting with our Beaver Colonies; they have had a water funday at North Walsham, trained to be Pokémon trainers at a overnight sleepover, and taken an annual trip to the pantomime (oh no they didn't, oh yes they did!). Throughout their weekly sessions they have been zookeepers learning about endangered animals, pilots travelling to cities across the world and learning about their cultures, and fire fighters with a visit to the local fire station. They've shown off their art skills and cooking abilities, and more importantly they've been kind and helpful with our annual Mother's Day Tea Parties and Father's Day Water Fights (and yes, they're as fun as they sound)!



Moving up to our Cub Packs; things take a step up with our Cubs as they took on TWO nights camping outside. They hiked around the local area, cooked their own meals (with plenty of leader supervision), played games and sung their hearts out in front of a campfire – and had loads more fun (and definitely weren't tired after). Our Cubs became Jedi to learn all about space, became adventurers taking on abseiling, and began training for the Olympics as cyclists. They spread their infectious joy across the village at a visit to Redmayne View, and on many a "Chip Shop Hike" too.

Now for our Scout Troop; another step up here as our Scouts challenged themselves to complete a hike across 2 days AND set up camp in between, get some hands on experience with aircraft mechanics, as well as a weekend away for some water activity mayhem. Our Scouts made pen pals with international Scouts, enhanced their strategy skills with Warhammer sessions, and kept up their fitness with rock climbing and athletics. Alongside all this, they've been back to basics too with building camp furniture from poles, and navigating the village using maps & compasses only.



At group level, we have proudly represented the village and surrounding areas at local events, from remembrance day to school fetes, and celebrated the festive period in style with a Scouting Festive Carol Service. Even more excitingly, there are already several upcoming dates in the Group's diary: another overnight stay for our Beavers with a sea-life theme, a local Scouting shooting competition which our Scouts will ace, and an awesome water activities day for our Cubs.

As ever, we welcome offers of help and support from everyone: whether that be another pair of hands working with the young people during meetings or helping behind the scenes. Speaking of behind the scenes, you may have seen works over the last year when passing our HQ to improve the hall's facilities. The "biggie" was replacing our roof, which has significantly reduced issues we have previously faced. Next on the "to do" list is some vital electrical work and we have plans for improving our outside area. Any volunteers with the skills to help with these projects will be very welcome!

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.

Contact our (new) Group Scout Leader, Kieran, on gsl@oldcattonscouts.org.uk if anything we've mentioned here is of interest to you!

OLD CATTON CRICKET CLUB

With the cricket season fast approaching, Old Catton Cricket Club will again be running two Saturday sides for the 2024 season. The first XI will be competing in the Norfolk Cricket League Division 1 East and our A team will be competing in the Norfolk Cricket League Division 3 East. Alongside this we run a Sunday side playing friendly's up until August.

This summer we will be running cricket training sessions every Wednesday from May 22nd between 6pm – 7:30pm being held at Old Catton Recreation Ground - as always new players are very welcome.

Old Catton Cricket Club will also be running Dynamos cricket starting on May 23rd which will be running every Tuesday between 6-7pm for 8 weeks. These sessions are aimed at children aged between 8 and 11-year-old, all are welcome no matter what ability or experience with cricket. These sessions will be held at Old Catton Recreation Ground, with the sessions being run by qualified ECB coaches and supported by players of our First and A teams. For further details on this please contact Zac Fisher on fisherz538@gmail.com

If you have any interest in playing cricket for Old Catton CC please contact us by email on gtp38@hotmail.com

If you would like to support our club by sponsoring us in any capacity, including match day sponsorships which will be shared across our various social media platforms reaching over 5000 people in the local area and beyond, then 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 cricketclub

GRANT FUNDING



Are you a member of a charitable organisation or voluntary group? Does your group need extra funding? If so, Old Catton Parish Council may be able to help.

The Parish Council has the power to financially assist non-profit making organisations within Old Catton. It is not difficult to apply, and you could receive the funding to boost your organisation's needs. For further information regarding grants, please contact the Clerk's Office.

Maintenance of Old Catton Cemetery is carried out by Parish Council Staff.

Families are respectfully reminded not to carry out maintenance, move soil or cut grass

OLD CATTON EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



People sometimes ask why we're called 'evening': it's because there used to be two WIs in Old Catton – as you can guess, one met earlier in the day.

We are a friendly and very busy group ... As I write this mid-April, so far this month we've had three darts afternoons, a meeting of Craft Group, a meeting of Book Club, our monthly evening meeting, and our birthday lunch at Stower Grange (we're 105!). We're also very proud of our Centenary Salver craft group, who have just come second in a countywide competition held at Honingham featuring different art and craft forms. At the time of writing the month is young: next week we will have our monthly stroll in Sheringham, followed by 'Tea on the Train' – a lovely outing on the North Norfolk Railway. We're all different and those activities reflect a range of interests; at present we don't have anyone who goes to ALL our activities. (Please feel free to see this as a challenge!)

Norfolk Federation logo – there are rules, so you could only use this with paragraph 3 'Anyone who belongs to a WI ...'

Anyone who belongs to a WI is also a member of her local federation and the national WI too, with lots of courses, events and social activities available at these levels. Last month a group of us attended the Norfolk Federation Annual Meeting at the Theatre Royal where, amongst other things, we caught up with WI news, had a useful 'refresher' from Trading Standards on avoiding scams, and were treated to an excellent talk by Janet Street-Porter with plenty of thought-provoking and entertaining content. Also at Federation level, an increasing number of our members are taking part in *Get Comfortable Online* workshops, where the Norfolk WI's Digital Team supports women to develop skills and confidence in all things digital. Feedback is very positive, not least because sessions are personalised: participants say in advance what device(s) they will be bringing and what they want to get better at, so the Digital Team volunteers prepare accordingly.

We have roughly 55 members at present – subscription renewals are still coming in. Like all WIs, we hold a monthly meeting, when we get together and usually listen to a guest speaker's presentation. These meetings are included in the membership subscription. OCEWI meets at 7.30 pm on the third Wednesday evening of each month; by the time we stop for tea and coffee, we usually find we've learned something, admired achievements and been very well entertained ... Sometimes laughter comes in the second part of the meeting, not the first – but it's always there.

After refreshments we have our business' meeting, where we share notices, correspondence and ideas for social events. 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.

Since last spring we've been taking a more active role in Old Catton through Warm Welcome, which runs on the first and third Tuesday morning of each month, from 10.30 -12.30 in the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground. This initiative started in 2022 as the Parish Council's Warm Room, to help combat the effects of rising fuel costs. OCEWI was pleased to take over aspects of cost and organisation when the Parish Council had to stop, and we are very grateful that so many of the original volunteers still come along to help. It's always a lovely atmosphere – do come along and have a cuppa with us if you're free.

You will also get a warm welcome if you'd like to come along to a WI meeting to see if it could be for you. Visitors may attend up to three times with no obligation - just contact President Lorna Brigden on 07794 714621 or me: shelaghr7@gmail.com
On behalf of all members of Old Catton Evening WI, thanks to the Parish Council staff and volunteers for everything they do, and best wishes for a good summer to all local residents.

Shelagh Maple - Secretary, OCEWI



OCEWI's Assistant Secretary Reenie Greenwood with Janet Street-Porter at the Norfolk Federation's Annual Meeting – could go anywhere in the piece



OLD CATTON GARAGE SALE

SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2024 10AM - 3PM

To register your address (£5) and be included on the map email assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

REGISTRATION CLOSING DATE: 2ND AUGUST 2024

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 10am – 2pm.

Telephone: 01603 423880

Email:

clerk@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Or

assistant
@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

LITTER PICKING

You can support your Community by organising your own litter pick.

Litter pickers, gloves and rubbish bags are available from the Council Office.

Please telephone 01603 423880 or email to arrange equipment collection



DON'T FORGET TO KEEP RECYCLING YOUR GLASS AND PAPER IN THE RECYCLING BANKS AT THE MAIDS HEAD PH, THE WOODMAN PH, MORRISONS AND THE OLD RECTORY, CROSTWICK.

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.

More information is available on the Parish Council noticeboards and website

www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk



Friends of Catton Park

Sweet Briar Marshes Reserve

talk by

Matt Wickens
(Norfolk Wildlife Trust)

Tuesday 14 May 2024

After our AGM

All welcome to this free event
Buxton Lodge, Catton Park

Doors open 7 pm

Refreshments available
(donations appreciated)

AGM starts at 7:30 pm
(only Friends may vote)



Image by David Reed from Pixabay

Next Event: Open Gardens - Saturday 8 June

WHY NOT BE A COUNCILLOR

Are you passionate about your local area?

Do you want to make a difference in your local community?

Do you enjoy being part of a team?

INTERESTED?

Why not join Old Catton Parish Council

see website for more details:
www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

email clerk@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk
01603 423880

The Parish Council asks that all residents maintain your boundaries to ensure that any hedges/trees do not encroach onto the public footpaths



DYNAMO CRICKET

This is our game.

dynamocricket.co.uk

Join us at:
Old Catton CC

Season dates:
Starts Tuesday 21st May

Season times:
18:00- 19:00 for 8 Weeks

Contact:
Fisherz538@gmail.com



OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH MEETING

MAY 30TH

STARTS AT 7:00PM

CHURCH HALL
Blacksmiths Way, Old Catton, NR6 7DT

This is YOUR meeting!

Come along and:

- > Meet your Parish Councillors
- > Find out what's been going on in your Parish
- > Find out what the Parish Council has been doing
- > Receive an update from your local Community Groups
- > Receive an update from the Police, District and County Councillors
- > Ask questions of your local Councillors

For more information see: www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk