

# Elections



As far as we know the elections for Old Catton Parish Council and Broadland District Council will take place on 5 May 2011. There is a small amount of doubt about the date as the government is planning a referendum next year and the dates will probably be combined to save the cost of having, effectively, two elections.

### Could you be a councillor?

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor you might like to talk to us or one of the other councillors listed in this newsletter or come to a meeting. Full details will be available on www.oldcatton.com nearer the time. The most important thing is to be interested in the Village and the community; there will be induction courses for new Councillors so do not let lack of knowledge or confidence put you off!

### This winter make sure you are safe from fire in your home by following these simple fire safety measures.

**Never leave candles** unattended, always remember to extinguish them before you go to sleep and always make sure candles are standing up straight and fixed firmly in an appropriate holder.

**Switch heaters** off if you are not in the room and when you go to bed, don't place them near materials that could catch light.

**Keep all flammables** away from the cooker and if you use a chip pan consider changing this for a deep fat fryer.

**Have your chimney** swept before use.

**Have your electric** blanket checked.

**Keep all matches** and lighters out of sight and reach of children.

**A thatched roof** is always at risk from fire. Once a fire has taken hold in a thatch it will spread rapidly.

For more information about how to avoid a fire in your property, especially if it is thatched, please see our website [www.norfolkfireservice.gov.uk](http://www.norfolkfireservice.gov.uk) We also offer free Home Fire Risk Checks and also smoke alarm fitting for those most at risk - call free 0800 9178137 to request free visit.



### Dates of meetings

You are welcome to attend all Council meetings and there is always time for you to ask questions or comment at the Council meetings held at the Village Hall on the fourth Monday of the month.

### The dates of Council meetings are:

January 17th, February 24th and March 24th. The Annual Parish Meeting, which is an open public meeting for parishioners, will be held on April 28th 2011.

www.oldcatton.com

Congratulations and thanks to Gordon who has now put our Village website on Facebook – do take a look and join in the discussions. There are lots of photos of events in the Village for you to see; your input is welcome.



## Your Parish Councillors

**Mr J Arnott**  
210 St Faiths Road, NR6 7AG  
429512

**Mrs A Chandler**  
60 Spixworth Road, NR6 7NF  
408012

**Mr C Green**  
59 The Warren, NR6 7NN  
429626

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

**Mr A Lovett**  
13 Fifers Lane, NR6 7AE  
425726

**Mrs G Masdin**  
21 Spixworth Road, NR6 7NE  
486005

**Mr B Palmer**  
45 Catton Chase, NR6 7AS  
465514

**Mrs A Riches**  
28 Catton Chase, NR6 7AS  
408177

**Mr B Sabberton-Coe**  
62 Garrick Green, NR6 7AN  
483976

**Mr D Thompson**  
145 Spixworth Road, NR6 7DU  
414141

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

**Miss P Wilkin**  
Church Barn, Swash Lane,  
Rackheath  
781050

**Mrs J Williams**  
13 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND



# Your newsletter

for the residents of old catton

## Winter Edition 2010



Joint editors:  
Sally Barber

Bradley Sabberton-Coe  
**Old Catton Parish Council**  
The Pavilion, Church Street  
Old Catton, NR6 7DS



*We wish you all the best for the festive season & in 2011*



*Do you have a smoke detector fitted in your property and have you checked its battery recently?*

**See some fire safety tips on back page...**

**As winter fast approaches** it is lovely to see the colourful leaves but also helpful to know that Broadland District Council will be clearing them off the paths. We want to thank the residents who have helped make the Village safer for pedestrians and motorists by cutting back their hedges and clearing other growth back, this helps to make the Village a nicer place to live and shows that its residents really care!

Please, will you all keep your hedges and trees trimmed so that they do not overhang the footpaths?

It is a shame that some residents seem not to care about the Village and we have to ask you, please, NOT to park your cars on grass verges or the pavements. In the last edition of this newsletter there was a photo of a muddy verge at Sewell Court; this is even worse now. The grass verges are not car parks, they are there to make the Village nicer.

The other problem residents are complaining about is dog poo. Please do not allow your dog to foul the paths or verges; if your dog has to 'go' in the street you should pick up the poo and take it home or place it in a red doggy bin.

This edition of the newsletter will again remind you that there will be Parish and District Elections and Census next year, tell you about the Parish Council's budget, the new site for the Broadland Information Service, as well as news about what's going on in the Recreation Grounds and Catton Park. At the Church Street Recreation Ground we have to buy a new see saw as the old one has a structural problem and at Lavare Park we are having to get some new chains and seats for the swings.

### Broadland District Council Information Service

Those of you who have missed seeing Julie or Mick on the Broadland Bus at the car park at The Paddocks may like to know that the Information Service now happens at the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground in Church Street, next to the school every other Tuesday afternoon between 2.15 and 3.45 pm. The next dates are – 3rd and 18th January, 1st and 15th February, 1st, 15th and 29th March and 12th and 26th April 2010. You can ask any question about Broadland District Council services and get your bus and rail passes.



## Catton Park News

You may have seen some construction work going on in the Park! This is the new Education Building that the Trust was given funding for by the Greater Norwich Development Project. The grant allowed is £250,000.00 which is enough to build a super base for school parties and educational use. It will also house an office for the Warden and space for volunteers working in the Park to dry off and have a drink. The building will be completed in March 2011.

The picture right shows the progress up to mid November. Piles, which will not damage the roots of trees, have been inserted into the ground as foundations. A steel frame will be attached, a concrete beamed floor laid and timber walls constructed.



The Friends of Catton Park organised another successful and fun Pumpkins in the Park event for Halloween and 140 people came and had a great time. There was a competition for the best pumpkins with 12 winners!

● If you would like to become a Friend of Catton Park please contact us, or the officers of the Friends who are listed on the website.

The Friends carried out another survey of the people who use Catton Park during the summer holidays and we thank them for giving up their time to do this. It is interesting to note that older people, over 40s, were in the majority (51%) and that 66% of the people were there walking their dogs. 40% of the visitors to the Park live in Old Catton. It is great to know that 98% of those interviewed were satisfied with the facilities in the Park.

## Safer Neighbourhoods Action Panel

The next meeting of the Old Catton, Spixworth and Sprowston SNAP will be held in Old Catton at the training building at Age UK on St Faiths Road at 7.30pm on Monday 17th January 2011. This is your chance to raise any concerns with the police and to influence the way that police resources are prioritised in the villages. The meeting is arranged for the benefit of residents and you will be made most welcome.

## New bowls & cricket building

The old bowls hut has fallen into a sorry state of repair and is not big enough now that we have two thriving bowls teams. In addition the cricket club needs a place to keep score as well as to store its equipment. So it was decided to build a new home for these groups using some section 106 funding from developers. The building shown here has planning approval and will be ready for the new bowls and cricket season in 2011.



South Elevation

The Wensum Bowls Club was successful in winning a grant of £1,000 from the Norfolk Community Foundation to equip the new building. We want to congratulate John Dickerson, Club Captain, on his initiative and skill in getting this wonderful grant!

If you would like to play bowls at the Recreation Ground please let us know and we will put you in touch with the team captains.

## Trading Standards - Top Ten Tips for Christmas Shopping



Did you know you have no automatic right to a refund if you just change your mind? Or that you may have more rights when you buy from a catalogue than a shop?

If we all know our rights we can make better decisions and avoid some of the pitfalls of Christmas shopping. Using feedback from Norfolk shoppers, Trading Standards has put together a list of 10 top tips to help people have a merrier Christmas.

- 1 **Unwanted presents** - Shops don't have to take things back unless there's something wrong with them but often help out of goodwill. Check before you buy and ask if they do gift receipts.
- 2 **Receipts** - Proof of purchase is very important if you do need to return anything. Put receipts in a safe place as soon as you start shopping.
- 3 **Check it out** - Check presents before you wrap them. This avoids upsets on Christmas day and helps you sort things out quickly with shops if there's a problem.
- 4 **Credit** - Think about paying by credit card for goods over £100. You may get extra protection if things go wrong, but make sure you know the full cost and can afford the repayments.
- 5 **Debt** - Don't let money problems pile up. You can check where to get free impartial advice at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/managingyourfinances](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/managingyourfinances). We've created a booklet 'Looking to the future' which highlights some of the support available locally. Download it from the site or call 0344 800 8020 to get a copy.
- 6 **Christmas shops** - Be very careful with "Christmas shops" and one-day sales that appear overnight. They often disappear just as quickly with no one left to complain to if things go wrong.
- 7 **Delivery** - If you're ordering presents, get written confirmation they'll be delivered in time. If you don't, you might get an estimated delivery date only and have to accept goods after Christmas.
- 8 **Buying from home** - You have the right to change your mind with most things bought on line or by mail order. If you're buying over the internet, you also get protection against fraud if you pay by credit or debit card.
- 9 **Fakes** - Watch out for cheap fakes as they're likely to be poor quality and could be unsafe. Common ones at Christmas are designer clothes, watches and perfume.
- 10 **Toys** - Stick to age warnings on toys and look for safety signs like the Lion mark. Make sure younger children don't get hold of toys made for older ones and check for loose parts or sharp points.

For more advice contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or visit [www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk)

## New land at Lavare Park

The size of Lavare Park has increased dramatically thanks to the gift of another 2.38 hectares of land by the Norwich Consolidated charities. The new land has been cleared and the new grass has grown well and will be ready for football in 2011. There will be two new football pitches there, as well as the existing pitch. Because there is enough space, provision will be made to move the pitches by 24 feet each year to help with the wear in the goalmouths. The Council has decided to have the three 'big' pitches at Lavare Park and three mini soccer pitches at the Church Street Recreation Ground next year. We think this will be helpful as the ground at Lavare Park is better drained than at Church Street and we have no flexibility to move big pitches at Church Street as space is restricted.

The Council had been talking to the Old Catton Junior Football Club about the possibility of the Club leasing the land at Lavare Park and managing it but the discussions have not resulted in any agreement about this yet. Oddly, the number of teams playing for the Club has reduced this year so the number of big pitches is now adequate but the need for extra mini soccer pitches still exists and can be catered for now we have the additional land.

There will be a new entrance to Lavare Park and another car park when the housing site is developed but we do not know when this will be.

## Budget for 2011/12

The Council was very mindful of the need to keep its budget increase as low as possible even though there will be significant increases in running costs, like electricity. It was decided to increase the precept by about 1%, which works out to about two pence a week for a 'band D' property.