

## Events in Catton Park - Friends of Catton Park



The evenings are drawing in and that can mean only one thing - it is time for Pumpkins in the Park! The Friends of Catton Park warmly invite you to bring your children or grandchildren to our fourth Pumpkins event in the woodland area near the Oak Lane entrance on Saturday 27 October.

Bring your carved pumpkins for entry into the competition from 2:30pm. Spooky storytelling will begin at 3pm with a break for hot refreshments. There will be a craft table for children. Tickets, priced £2.50 per person are available from The Little House Dental Practice at 75 Spixworth Road, telephone 415760 during surgery hours (8am to 3:30pm weekdays except Thursday 1 - 7pm) or Gill on 484073. Tickets are available until Thursday 25 October - after this date please contact Gill to see if tickets are still available (it helps with catering arrangements). Please tell us when booking if you require vegetarian food. Wear your spookiest fancy dress! Bring a torch and we request that you leave your dogs at home please. Toilet facilities will be available in the Lodge in the picnic area. Look forward to seeing you there!

Catton Park has seen a variety of events over the summer period. In late July the Friends organised a bat walk, with over thirty adults and children keen to learn more about bats and to spot common and soprano pipistrelles and noctules flying over the Park. The walk was led by the Norwich Bat Group, who brought along bat detectors to assist with identification and spotting the bats. In August the Park Warden organised three mornings of children's theatre in the Park. Over ninety children, along with their parents and grandparents, enjoyed 'The Enchanted Sleep' - an interactive play specially written for children set in a magical park. At the start of September Hayman Lodge in the picnic area was open as part of the Heritage Open Days weekend. Old Catton Society and Catton Park Trust had exhibitions about aspects of the history of Old Catton and Catton Park. Visitors could also see some of the artefacts found in the Park.

For information about upcoming events in the park please visit the website at [www.cattonpark.com](http://www.cattonpark.com) or keep an eye out for posters around the village.

### Catton Park Trust Ltd.

The Trust has been very busy getting its administrative house in order. Two working groups have been formally constituted, standing orders and a code of conduct agreed. The new building in the Park, Hayman Lodge, is a popular venue for school visits and other groups. Plans are in hand to make a new pond close to the Lodge for pond dipping.

There will be Open Days to find out how you feel about the Park and to hear your suggestions. The first Open Day will be over before this newsletter is delivered but we will report on the results next time.



Joint editors:  
Sally Barber and Bradley Sabberton-Coe  
**Old Catton Parish Council**  
The Pavilion, Church Street, Old Catton, NR6 7DS  
[www.oldcatton.com](http://www.oldcatton.com)

The Village website is working well, please visit it and the Facebook page for lots of information about what is going on.

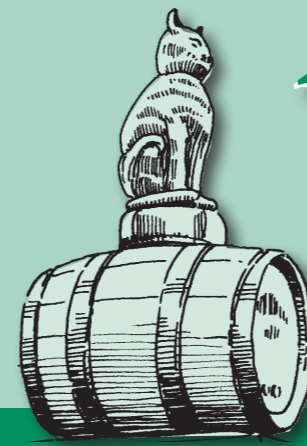
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## Parish Council

The next meetings of the Council will be held at The Recreation Ground at Church Street, starting at 7.30pm on:  
**Monday 12th November 2012**  
and  
**Monday 10th December 2012**

### Parish Councillors

- Mrs J Williams**  
13 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND  
**Miss P Wilkin**  
Church Barn, Rackheath 781050  
**Mr M Vincent**  
4 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND 485460  
**Mr G Tingle**  
36 Mousehold Lane, NR7 8HA 404472  
**Mr D Thompson**  
145 Spixworth Road, NR6 7DU 414141  
**Mr B Sabberton-Coe**  
62 Garrick Green, NR6 7AN 483976  
**Mrs A Riches**  
28 Catton Chase, NR6 7AS 408177  
**Mr B Palmer**  
45 Catton Chase, NR6 7AS 465514  
**Mr B Leggett**  
30 Garrick Green, NR6 7AL 429986  
**Mr B Honess**  
1 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND 419943  
**Mr C Green**  
59 The Warren, NR6 7NN 429626  
**Mrs A Chandler**  
The Croft, 60 Church Road, Swainsthorpe, NR14 8PR 01508 470388  
**Mr J Arnott**  
210 St Faiths Road, NR6 7AG 429512



# Your newsletter

Autumn  
2012



This newsletter has been prepared to a very tight timescale as we want you to know about the meeting about buses which will be held on 1st November 2012. As well as information about the bus issue there are details of the new ways the Parish Council will meet and operate, a plea for potential Parish Councillors to come forward, planning news, news of some of our sports groups and interesting articles about the activities of the Friends of Catton Park and the Old Catton Twinning Association.

Our usual members of staff are unable to carry on delivering the newsletter and it will be delivered by a professional company who may also deliver other leaflets at the same time; this enables them to keep the costs down.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter, please let us know what you think about or anything else the Council is involved with.



Sally and Bradley

The Old Catton Tennis Club continues to flourish and will be playing every Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting, thorough the winter.

## Our old service 10 bus

The Council and residents were surprised to learn that the service 10 was being discontinued in the new bus timetables. This means the loss of a regular bus service along George Hill and Spixworth Road as far as Lodge Lane. We were very disappointed that we were not consulted or even informed until the decision had been made by First Eastern Buses. We were even more disappointed when our pleas to First to reconsider were unsuccessful, even when we were backed by our County Councillor and Member of Parliament.

We have arranged a meeting with First Bus, Norfolk County Council, Sanders Coaches and Norwich Door to Door to talk about transport for the area. The meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 1st November 2012 at the Village Hall in Church Street. Please come along to find out what is going on.

In case you didn't know, there is still the Sanders service 210. It picks at Spixworth Road at 7.53am, 10.20am, 1.10pm, 3.20pm and 5.10pm. It leaves the City (Bus Station bay 5) at 7.45am, 8.45am, 10.45am, 1.35pm, 4.10pm and 5.30pm.

On a Sunday there is the Sanders service 5A which will pick you up just before 8.20am, 10am, 12 noon, 2pm, and 4pm. The returns from bay 10 at the Bus Station are at 8.55am, 10.55am, 12.55pm, 2.55pm and 4.55pm. Most of the shops in the City are open on a Sunday.

There are a couple of other alternatives...

**Transport Plus** - their telephone number is (01603) 422807, this is a volunteer car organisation who concentrate on taking people to medical appointments. The charge is 42.5p per mile. The organisation needs three working days notice and you can book up to two weeks in advance. The driver will wait for up to an hour but if longer the charge will be double ie. for four journeys. This organisation is also looking for volunteer drivers. If a user of this service needs assistance they will need to be accompanied by a companion. You may like to phone the number to check these details

**Norwich Door to Door** - more details will be provided at the meeting, or from their website - [www.norwichdoortodoor.org.uk](http://www.norwichdoortodoor.org.uk)

### Planning Update

You must have seen the rapid construction of homes at Spixworth road, next to Lavare Park. The development and road names remember the late Les (Ernest) Austin, our Norfolk County Councillor who worked to hard to get the excellent foot and cycle path to Spixworth.

Beyond Green Developments are about to submit their outline planning application for the land to the north of Old Catton and (mainly) Sprowston. The application will not be dealt with until the Joint Core Strategy has been completed and approved. It is unlikely that any building will take place in Old Catton for several years. A large part of the Old Catton land is scheduled for a cricket field so we are hoping that part might be speeded up!

## Would YOU like to be a Parish Councillor?

We would like to hear from you if you think you might be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor at some time in the future. The position is unpaid and requires some commitment and lots of interest in what is going on in Old Catton. There is a certain amount of training available so do not think that you would be 'thrown in at the deep end'. It would be helpful to keep a list of willing volunteers in readiness for vacancies that might occur.

You might like to come to Parish Council meetings to see what goes on. The meetings are held at the Recreation Ground Pavilion in Church Street at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month. There are, of course, some complicated legal qualifications for being a councillor. A very brief summary of the main points shows that:

- You must be aged 18 or over.
  - You must have lived, or worked, in the parish or within three miles, for at least 12 months.
  - You must be a qualifying Commonwealth Citizen.
- You would be disqualified from being a councillor if:
- You work for the Council.
  - You are subject to a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order.
  - You were convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment of at least three months.
  - You had been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices.

Usually you would stand for election every four years; the next planned election is in May 2015; but there may be occasions when a casual vacancy arises, if, for instance, an existing councillor moves away or resigns. You do not have to be a member of a political party. Currently 11 of the 13 councillors are independent.

If you are elected you will be required to sign up to a code of conduct and to declare your interests, such as owning property in the Parish or belonging to bodies of influence like political parties, Masonic lodges or charities. These declarations will be published on the district and Parish Councils' websites.

Don't be put off. It is very satisfying to walk around your Village, seeing how nice it is, and to be able to think that you were involved in making it such a good place to live.

## The Wensum Bowls Club

The Club say that they are very happy playing at the Recreation Ground and are always looking for new members, either experienced, or new to Bowling. They will welcome all comers. This is a photo of a surprise guest at their annual outing; he was good enough to present their prizes.



Leisure Bowls has continued to be run on a Thursday afternoon by Tony and Neville of the ATV club.

## Old Catton Twinning Association - May 2012 Lavaré visit



Old Catton Twinning Association celebrated its 22nd year with a visit by the French. We welcomed 28 of our Lavaré friends around 6pm on 16 May with drinks and nibbles at The Pavilion.

On 17th May we went to North Norfolk Railway Holt station to explore the Railway Carriage home and the William Marriott Museum before catching the 11.15am steam train to Sheringham. The afternoon was spent at Cromer and included a visit to the Henry Blogg Museum and a guided tour in both languages

of the current deep water RNLI lifeboat. On Friday, we had a leisurely visit to Wroxham Barns in the morning (children visited the animal farm and bottle fed the lambs) followed by a picnic lunch in the lovely setting of the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club overlooking Wroxham Broad. After lunch we visited Norwich Castle including tours of the Keep and Dungeons, all translated into French.

The Soirée was at Hellesdon Community Centre (attended by 66 people) including a delicious three course dinner and coffee. During coffee, the Chairman of the Association Richard Moore, delivered a special speech of welcome and the Mayor of Lavaré, Nicolas Massé responded. Music was provided by the Den Barry Duo who started with some French song music then well known fairly quiet music while we were eating and talking. Once the meal was over, the tempo went up a beat and dancing was enjoyed by all. There was much positive feedback with everyone saying how much they enjoyed the evening and confirming how close the two communities continue to be, with friendships going back many years.

Both we and Lavaré have some new members who enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship which is so strong on our exchanges. New members are always welcome - if interested please get in touch or check the website (details below). A few friends were unable to come this year, either becoming less fit to travel or for family reasons.

We have continued to raise funds in order to finance our visitors for outings and the Soirée when they come. In March 2012 we ran a quiz, including soup & dessert, open to the wider community with around 50 attending. All appeared to enjoy themselves.

**Richard Moore, Chairman of Old Catton Twinning Association.** Tel. (01603) 400690 [www.oldcattontwinning.co.uk](http://www.oldcattontwinning.co.uk)

## New format for Parish Council meetings

The Council met informally after the Annual Meeting to talk about how it wanted to operate in the future. It wants to communicate better with residents and to try to make Parish Council meetings more interesting for members of the public that take the time to come to meetings. It was then decided, for a six month trial period, to:

- Discontinue regular committee meetings. Although it had always been possible for residents to attend committee meetings they had not been able to speak so it was felt these meetings were not attractive to residents.
- To do all Council business at Council meetings when there would continue to be a time set aside for residents to speak.
- To change the dates of the meetings to the second Monday of each month.
- To hold the meetings at The Pavilion at the Church Street Recreation Ground so it was possible to exhibit plans on the walls.
- To hold a surgery before each meeting at 7pm so that residents could discuss concerns confidentially before the meeting began.

It was agreed that each councillor would take responsibility for 'keeping an eye' on different areas of the Village and reporting any matters in need of attention back to the Council.

The old Recreation Grounds Committee would continue at the Recreation Grounds Liaison Group so that the representatives of the sports groups would still be able to talk to the Council about their particular activities and how they use the Recreation Grounds.

It was also noted that Sally would retire at the end of May 2013 and that the job of Clerk of the Council and recruitment of a new Clerk should be discussed in good time. It was agreed that the new Clerk would not be required to act as Company Secretary of the Catton Park Trust but that the Council would increase its grant to the Trust so that it could employ a part time secretary.

One of our regular supporters has given us his views on the new format - below.

### Old Catton Parish Council Meetings

"It was eight years ago that I had the opportunity to give my views on the reasons why the Parish Council meetings are very poorly attended by residents of Old Catton, the key point that I made at the time was, the Parish Council needed to look at the contents that it was dealing with at these meetings and try to make them more informative by giving more detail to members of the public so they can understand what the members of the council are discussing, and also to remove the two sub meetings where most of the council issues are being dealt with, again without the public attending.

I've looked at several Parish Councils in the county and they only have one parish meeting per month dealing with all council issues that the public may like to participate in.

Eight years went by with no change, the meetings became less and less informative and the number of people attending on a regular basis went to zero in the last two years with members of the public only attending when they have a personal issue."

### So what is this about?

"Well a big change has taken place at the council; we now have a new Chairman (Mr B Sabberton-Coe), and he has, with the agreement of the whole council, decided to change the way the council runs its meetings.

As of August 2012 all council business will be dealt with at one Parish Council meeting (on the 2nd Monday of each month) this will be with full council members, with members of the public having a slot.

Hopefully the Parish Council meetings should now be more informative, and members of the public will be able to understand the workings of the council in a clear and transparent way. And how council members deal with parish affairs and a budget of over £100K of our money.

What I would like to champion is that we the people of Old Catton now get behind the council and attend Parish Council meetings on a regular base, hopefully we will get more than the regular 2 people that will attend, out of over several thousand people in Old Catton?

PLEASE come along and raise issues, your participation will assist and shape the future of our parish and the wider community, also we need the young people to take an interest in the parish of Old Catton and not leave it to us older ones. Let's have some new ideas and perhaps get some younger Parish Council members. The Parish Council would like to see you at all its meetings.

If you have got this far, I thank you for your time, and will see you at the next Parish Council meeting."

**Peter**

## Annual Parish Council Meeting 2012

David Thompson started the meeting by saying that he did not wish to stand for re-election as Chairman of the Parish Council. Members thanked David warmly for his dedication and hard work as Chairman of thirteen successful and busy years.

David nominated Bradley Sabberton-Coe as Chairman and Bradley was elected unanimously. He has lived in the Village for 39 years and been a member of the Parish Council for 12 years, the last five as Vice Chairman.

Ann Chandler was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman, she had previously chaired the Finance and Policy Committee.