

Annual Report 1st April 2021—31st March 2022

Welcome to this year's Annual Report from your Parish Council.

The year started with the sad news of the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at the age of 99. Social distancing restrictions continued during the earlier part of the year and no one can forget the pictures of HRH The Queen sitting alone at Prince Phillip's funeral. Restrictions continued until February 2022, the knock-on effect being increased mental health issues and families facing financial issues into the next financial year. As a community I believe we have continued to thrive. The legacy of covid has been awareness of ones neighbour, in Old Catton we already promote this. Groups and societies, both established and new, provided support and wellbeing to those who just need a friend. I hope these support mechanisms continue for many years.

As a Parish Council we have aimed to continue supporting our community through these difficult times and our Council staff have continued providing support, guidance and assistance wherever possible alongside their normal working duties. I thank the staff for the dedicated service they continue to provide to our community.

During this year we have welcomed two new Members to the Council – Tim Cooke who joined us in July and Richard Potter (who was also elected as Old Catton Broadland District Councillor working alongside Councillor Karen Vincent and Councillor Ken Leggett) who joined us in September. We also said farewell to Sam Walker and wish him well in the future.

We said a fond farewell to Maureen Wilkin who has worked for the Council at the Recreation Ground and Lavaré Park for nearly 25 years. Maureen was the longest serving employee of the Council and her dedication and vigilance is missed. Christine Smith has stepped into Maureen's shoes at Lavaré Park and we hope she will have many happy years working with the Council. We also marked the sad passing of Malcolm Wilkin (a former Recreation Ground Supervisor) who passed away in November. He was known and loved by many.



It has been a busy year for the Council. A new trod has been installed across the land at Priors Drive which was funded by the Parish Council, Norfolk County Councillor Karen Vincent and through the Parish Partnership Scheme. We are planning the improvement of trod surface at Oak Lane (near the Catton Park entrance) through the Parish Partnership Scheme for next year. New noticeboards will be installed at Morrisons and Repton Avenue (by the path to the playground). This will bring the total number of noticeboards around the village to x8 (also on Church Street, St Faiths Road, Norman Drive, corner of White Woman Lane, George Hill and at the entrance to the Recreation Ground); the boards have an open side that residents are welcome to use to advertise their event/business/etc. Using Community Infrastructure (CIL) and S106 funds we have resurfaced and line marked the car park at the Recreation Ground which will hopefully make parking easier for those using the beautiful

green space at the Recreation Ground, installed an irrigation system at the Recreation Ground for watering of the bowling green and cricket wicket/outfield, installed electricity and new pump to the historic fountain at the village pond on Parkside Drive, provided x4 new benches on the bowling green at the Recreation Ground, carried out extensive drainage works to the bowling green and purchased the beautiful wood sculptures that form the sculpture trail at Catton Park (our thanks to Friends of Catton Park for providing funding towards one of the sculptures). We have also secured funding through the Broadland Trees Grant for the purchase of x10 historic fruit trees which will create a small community orchard at Woodham Leas, the planting of which will take place in the Autumn. Our thanks to Norfolk County Councillor Karen Vincent for providing additional funding towards this project also.

Throughout the year the Council has strongly supported our community. We continue to support the Royal British Legion and provided display window for art as part of the Remembrance Art Trail held in October. We supported Catton Park by hosting the annual Garage Sale in August, carried out x2 Community Litter Picks (our thanks to those who took part) in June, supported Friends of Catton Park by selling calendars and greeting cards, tickets for the Easter Egg Hunt and Open Gardens event. The Council has supported Norfolk Support Ukraine UK by providing a local collection point for the for the community for donations.

Continued....



*Old Catton Parish Council invites you to celebrate
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2nd June
Please see back page for further information*



Old Catton Parish Council Annual Report Continued....

We continue to support the youth of our Parish through Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) via the Old Catton Youth Group and via BLAH and supporting the Old Catton youth football team who practise at the Recreation Ground on Thursday evenings, by supporting youth netball through the weekly practise sessions and matches of Thoroughbred Netball held at the Recreation Ground and we look forward to welcoming the Dynamos Cricket youth group who will be starting at the Recreation Ground from early May. We are proud to provide continued support to Old Catton Junior Football Club who use the Parish Council owned site at Lavaré Park.

With Spring upon us we look forward to welcoming our sports groups back to the Recreation Ground. With all covid restrictions lifted the x3 bowling clubs will finally be able to use the bowls hut once again. Cricket season is just about to start with full use of facilities at the Recreation Ground and netball season has already started. It is wonderful to see such a diversity of usage at the Recreation Ground and a pleasure to see so many families enjoying the open space.

Looking forward to next year and with the G7 Summit in Cornwall and declaration of climate crisis in mind the Parish Council will be looking into carbon neutrality, net zero and ways to make Old Catton more sustainable. This will be an enormous project that will need the support of all residents. More information will follow.

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 has been instrumental in positively improving highways, green spaces and facilities within Old Catton. Councillor Ken Leggett continues to positively support the Parish Council and Catton Park Trust through improvement of green spaces and fund raising for the Park. They have provided a valued extension of the Parish Council and have made a significant impact to our Parish.

Our final thanks must go to our grounds staff. Our Head Groundsman, Ross, has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of the green spaces in our community. Ross and Chris have finished the mammoth job of completing the drainage works to the bowling green for which the Council thanks them for their efforts – this turned into a much larger job than was originally envisaged. The grounds staff team are to be commended for the work they carry out at all the spaces the Council are responsible for – the Cemetery, the Churchyard, Woodham Leas, the War Memorial, Lavaré Park and the Recreation Ground. We are sure all residents will agree that Old Catton remains a beautiful and well-maintained village.



Finally, I would personally like to thank my fellow Councillors and the Council staff for their continued support, advice and hard work and look forward to their proactive contributions for the next year on behalf of the village and the Council.

Mr Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Chairman

OLD CATTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

Having lost out on the conclusion of the 2019/20 season and then highly restricted training and then matches and then yet more lockdown it is with great pleasure that as I write this, lockdowns have been lifted and we can accommodate all of our regular football activity in what amounts to business as usual at Old Catton JFC. Since March of 2020, two seasons and effectively two summers of tournaments and celebrations have been lost to the pandemic which has made us more determined than ever before to ensure the summer of 2022 showcases our club and celebrates the young people that represent it.

That said, during the pandemic, Old Catton JFC was far from idle. At Lavare Park, static floodlights were installed to enable evening training, an under-pitch sprinkler system and improvements to our pitches were made. All achieved in-house by club members for the benefit of our young players. The Parish Council have also been very helpful in this regard granting the club funds to purchase a set of brand new portable goals ensuring we have the very best equipment on all our pitches, the envy of many other clubs. Next season will, hopefully, see further additions to the club's infrastructure as we strive to ensure local children have the very best facilities with which to enhance their enjoyment of playing our national winter game.

Our membership of young players has, despite the lockdown pause (and the competing attraction of computer games), held up remarkably well and many of our teams are full. In addition, we have recently introduced girls only football to Old Catton JFC having become a FA Wildcats centre with regular Friday tea-time sessions led by an accredited ladies coach. This has proven to be very successful with around 20 – 25 girls aged between 6 and 10 enjoying their football every week, some of whom also join the boys in mixed teams (all football under 16 and younger is mixed). The 2021/22 season has also seen one of our largest ever intakes of under 6 footballers (school year 1) enjoying weekly Saturday morning sessions at Lavare Park and we look forward to our 2022/23 intake in September. For further information, please see www.facebook.com/oldcattonjfc or @oldcattonjfc on Twitter.

Kevin Brown

Chairman—Old Catton JFC



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It was a busy year for the Old Catton RBL. At the end of February 2021 we formed our first committee and became a standalone branch after being supported by the county for the last few years. We've spent the past year getting to know some of our forces families and beneficiaries, and we're still working away behind the scenes making phone calls and visiting, and looking after our more vulnerable beneficiaries.

In October, we launched our first Remembrance Art Trail, kindly supported by Morrisons, Camilla Brides, Oyster Travel, J&P Fish and Chips and Old Catton Parish Council who all displayed artwork submitted by schools, scout groups, individuals, and the residents from a local care home. We asked for artwork to represent what "REMEMBRANCE" means to you, we were blown away by the thought-provoking and often poignant submissions. It is so important to keep the act of personal and shared remembrance alive and to kindle that flame in our young people as they will be the guardians of Remembrance in the future. From what I saw of their thoughts and ideas in their artwork, it is safe in their hands.



Our Poppy Appeal raised an amazing £5073.65 thanks to your generosity. A big thank you to all our Poppy Appeal Volunteers – despite Lindsay and some of the volunteers having Covid, everyone rallied round and we had Morrisons covered most of the time. At The RBL Norfolk County Conference, Old Catton were awarded the Carter Trophy of our fundraising efforts during the Poppy Appeal and for our projects to raise awareness of the work of the Legion, when we had the 100th Birthday Walking Trail last Spring. Thank you to all of you who support our efforts.



We've just held our second successful Quiz and Chips Night, which we plan on becoming a permanent fixture in our calendar and looking ahead, we have other activities planned throughout the year for our members and beneficiaries including a tour of the old RAF Coltishall and a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. One of our committee members, Neil, has put together a walking/cycling/driving route of all of the Commonwealth War Graves and Grade 2 listed war memorials in the area. Starting locally with Old Catton, and then further afield throughout Norfolk. If you would like a copy, we will make it available on our Facebook page, by request from one of the committee and at the Parish Council Office. We will also be partnering with Park Run on Armed Forces Day (Saturday 25th June). We're encouraging Park Run participants to wear something with a nod to the Armed Forces and we will be there with an information point and some deliciously icy cool refreshment for the runners!

May sees the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict and the Norwich Aviation Museum is holding an event on Sunday the 22nd May between 10am and 5pm; You'll have the chance to get up close and personal to Falklands era aircraft, like the Vulcan and Nimrod and there will be historical re-enactors, equipment and displays. The event will also showcase various displays illustrating the role the Royal Air Force played during the conflict and a number of former personnel from the Vulcan, Victor and Nimrod crews will be present to share their experiences. In addition, military re-enactment groups will add authenticity to the day with a rapier missile battery – the type used to defend Port Stanley Airfield on display. The museum's Lightning, Phantom and Jaguar cockpits will also be open. Tickets are only available on the door.

In mid-April we had a General Meeting of the Old Catton RBL, its committee, members and guests which included three of the County Officers. The highlight of the evening was being able to honour John Arnott, and Old Catton resident and former Parish Councillor, for over 30 years of service during the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance fortnight. As well as volunteering to be one of our in-store collectors, he also organises the wreath-laying at the war memorial and reads out the roll of honour of the Old Catton fallen. He exemplifies the Legion's motto of SERVICE NOT SELF. The world always needs people like John Arnott, and we can always use more volunteers! If you would like to know more about joining the Royal British Legion then please do get in touch.-oldcatton.chairman@rbl.community. Meanwhile we hope to see you all at the Old Catton Family Fun Day on Thursday 2nd June, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Look out for our gazebo and come and say hello!



**LINDSAY CARRUTHERS—CHAIRMAN,
JOHN ARNOTT AND PAUL 'SMUDGE'SMITH, NORFOLK COUNTY RBL CHAIRMAN**

CATTON PARK TRUST

This year saw the Trust reopen the doors of Buxton Lodge for regular hire and educational visits following the lifting of some covid restrictions. The Park welcomed back the Brownies groups, home education, fitness classes and a new art group. Scouts, Cubs and Air Cadets now regularly use the outdoor space. Wellbeing, fitness and bootcamp classes continue to take place within the Park and we welcomed the return of ParkRun. It has been lovely to see our regularly users and hirers back using the facilities and enjoying the beautiful green space.

Footfall remains high with the Park continuing to be the place of choice for the local community and those living in Norwich and the outskirts. Walkers, runners, cyclists, dog walkers and, with the improved weather, picnickers continue to enjoy the space – we would ask that you all be mindful of the other users; take your litter home, always clear up after your dog and be respectful of others, to ensure everyone has an enjoyable experience at Catton Park.

This year we said welcome to Carey's of Norfolk who provide refreshments weekly during the day, Thursday–Sunday. There is a lovely community feel around the users of the Café. May we ask that users use the rubbish bins and not dog bins when disposing of your coffee cups, or consider reusable cups.



With such extensive usage we are proud to say that the management of the park and woodland continues to be carried out to an impressive standard and we thank Matt Caley (Warden) and Amy Henderson (Park Assistant) for their tireless dedication. Tree and shrub planting, woodland management, grass cutting, fencing and path maintenance and extensive litter picking continues to be carried out. Our thanks also to the regular volunteers who provide additional help with the maintenance and to those unknown ad-hoc litter pickers who help to keep the Park looking at its best. Going into 2022 a new hoggan path is being installed in an effort to reduce the wear and tear on the parkland by the increased footfall.

We thank the Parish Council for providing funding (via S106) and the Friends of Catton Park for their donation towards the magnificent Sculpture Trail at the Park. These fabulous sculptures add character to the Park; those who have not yet followed the Sculpture Trail will find the map on our website: <https://www.cattonpark.com/walkers-trails/sculpture-trail.html>. Plans for next year include the installation of a brass rubbing educational trail in the east woodland and Information board detailing the Buxton family history in Old Catton.

Sadly, due to covid restrictions few events took place this year but those that did had their successes! Strange Fascination performed the amazing Treasure Island open air theatre in July and were featured on Radio Norfolk's Treasure Hunt. The Lantern Parade in October was a huge success and our thanks go to the Friends of Catton Park for organising this event. Spooks in the Park took everyone by surprise as being the only local fireworks event on that particular weekend – there were some positives and negatives to the event and these will be taken forward with future planning.

During 2022, we will be hosting an Upcycling Craft Fair in May and will be taking part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations with Picnic in the Park and the lighting of the Beacon in June. Matt and Amy are hoping to run some educational events – flora and fauna walks, bat walks, etc – later in the year; more details to follow.

The financial cost of running Catton Park continues to be at the forefront of the Trust's mind. Whilst large scale events raise substantial funds towards running costs, the Trust must consider the impact on the Park and local community of hosting such events. Small scale events will never raise sufficient funds and grant funding is only available for specific projects and not general running costs.

We do continue to raise funds from the recycle banks located around the village (Morrisons, the Woodman PH, the Maids Head PH) and at The Rectory Crostwick. Gross funds raised this year (February and March funds not yet received) are £3,307.00 and the Trust thanks you for continuing to support Catton Park through recycling your glass bottles and paper at the banks rather than placing them in your grey bin. Our sincere thanks to Ken Leggett for the continued management of this fund raiser.

The Trust continues exploring fundraising options. Donating to the Park is very easy -

We are part of the Broadland Community Lottery <https://www.communityatheartlottery.com/good-causes>,

We have a JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/cattonpark> and

We are part of the Easy Fundraising scheme: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cattonpark/> and the Amazon Smile scheme <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/charity> both of which donate a percentage of the price of your shopping to the selected charity.



All donations are greatly appreciated and we thank you in advance for supporting Catton Park. Specific thanks goes to Action Fitness Norwich (AFN) who hold fitness bootcamp sessions in the Park and regularly provide donations and to Jude Durrant who organises charity runs and donates half the funds raised to the Park.

Mr Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Chairman of the Catton Park Trust

GARAGE SALE

Old Catton
Community Event
Sunday 14th August
10am—3pm

Stalls cost £5 for each participating household (all money raised will go towards the future upkeep of Catton Park)

Maps (£1 each) will be available from 9.45am on 14th August at the Recreation Ground Pavilion, Church Street, Old Catton, Norwich, NR6 7DS

To register your address and to be included on the map please contact the Clerk's Office on 01603 423880 or e-mail assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Closing date for Registration 29th July 2022



OLD CATTON HORTICULTURAL CLUB

Although we were unable to have a Spring Show or Club meetings for much of last year, the Old Catton Horticultural Club remained very busy and active and kept 'in touch' with its members through monthly newsletters and phone calls. A series of Members Open Gardens was again organised from May – September, all run within the Covid guidance which were very successful and enjoyed by many members.

The Club has continued to attract new members during the past year and this, combined with Covid guidance made it clear that we needed more space and a permanent move for monthly meetings to St Margaret's Church Hall was agreed although this also meant meeting on Friday evenings rather than Wednesdays.

By September we were able to resume indoor meetings and well over half of our members attended a Saturday afternoon social which replaced the Autumn Show. We have held regular monthly club meetings since then and a Christmas Social in December. In March, we held our first AGM since 2020 and we have a full committee including a new Chairman, Derek Oldham, Vice-Chairperson and three new committee members and also, a new President, Len Dye.

We have a full 2022 programme of monthly meetings, two Shows, four trips, a Plant and Cake sale and some Socials all in the pipeline and we now have a hundred members. Our Spring Show was held in April and there was an excellent array of 184 entries across 40 flower, plant, vegetable, flower arranging, cookery and photography classes.

We have recently been involved in planting the Community Orchard in Oakfield Gardens and several members as well as residents helped on the Planting Day.

Liz Brown Secretary Tel: 01603 409905

email: ochcsec@btinternet.com



OLD CATTON BOWLS CLUB

Most of our members attended our AGM held in the pavilion. We are all looking forward to playing on the green at Old Catton Recreation Ground, which is looking in splendid condition, thanks to the hard work of the grounds staff.

Along with Catton Bowls and Old Catton Cricket Club, we repainted the bowls hut. Thanks to Wensum Bowls for supplying the paint. All looking well set for the new season.

Our Thursday afternoon play commences on 21st 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 2pm and 4pm any Thursday or email :oldcattonbowlsclub@gmail.com

Keith Meader Old Catton Bowls Club secretary.



CATTON BOWLS CLUB

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 initially started at Waterloo park, moved to Jarrolds sports social club and then to Old Catton Recreation ground after Jarrolds closed the site. We were very grateful to Wensum Bowls Club and Old Catton Parish Council who have been very helpful and supportive of our club.

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 help and advise you!

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.

Costs are £2.50 per game and if you wish to sign up as a full member there is a £20 membership fee. If you wish to trial the 1st year, have a practice and act as reserve for when we are short, then this initial membership would be waived and just the £2.50 a game would apply.

Catton Bowls Club competes in two local leagues and there's especially friendly rivalry with members of Wensum BC, who share the green on the recreation ground. In the most recent season, Wensum finished ahead of Catton Bowls in the City League. However, in another league, the position was reversed.

Thanks to Old Catton Parish Council, the green, which is widely regarded as one of the better ones in the district, now has a new irrigation system. It should ensure that it plays even better than before - so, give bowls a chance.

We will be more than happy to give practical help, so don't worry if you've not played before or don't have bowls. If you would like details, contact the Chairman Mike Conroy (contact details below), Secretary Michael Pollitt (01603 486997) or the team captain Danny Leech (01603 485922). if you are interested 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

Mobile: 07932841081





44th NORWICH (1ST OLD CATTON) SCOUT GROUP

What an exciting year 2022 is becoming for our Scouts, Cubs and Beaver Scouts!

In March, the Cubs and Beavers (young people aged 6 to 10 1/2), enjoyed an action-packed Camp together. As well as the amazing activities and adventures, they made new friends and revealed awesome levels of internal strength as many overcame initial fears and realised, they can.

During the two day camp, over 70 people discovered that sleeping in groups, eating outside and trying new adventures together is brilliant fun. The cubs arrived on Friday and put up so many tents that some were put up in the dark; wielding large wooden mallets while others were holding tent pegs in place was great team work, demonstrated by no injuries being incurred!

Saturday started with the Beaver Scouts arriving bright and early to join the Cub Scouts for an action-packed day, where each scout section was offered activities that stimulated and challenged them. We discovered future sharpshooters of the future, where they learnt great breathing control and steady arms while carrying a heavy load during Archery. Canoeing taught them perfect balance and teamwork; the wobbles and threat of tipping into the cold water when not working together gave strong reminders that focussed their attention and concentration! (Or maybe it was the imagination of the log that looked like a crocodile!?) The pictures show some of their other achievements!

Scouts are busy fundraising for their trip to Spejdernes Lehr to Denmark in the summer, where they will be linking again with the St Clemens Scout Group which visited us in 2019. This is a demanding camp, with Scouts having to build their own camp furniture and every meal is cooked over an open fire...

Our congratulations go to five of our young leaders (aged 16-17) who have been awarded their "Young Leader Belt". This is one of the highest accolades a young person can receive in recognition of their commitment to helping others and their training as future leaders, well done!

Registered Charity No: 1022330

easyfundraising: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/44thnorwichscouts>



OLD CATTON CRICKET CLUB



OCCC are looking forward to the oncoming season featuring some exciting changes.

We are excited to host more Dynamos cricket sessions for youngsters between the ages of 8-11 years. These sessions start from Tuesday 10th May and every Tuesday following until June 28th. This is a 6pm-7pm slot and we hope it will enable lots of youngsters to get involved in cricket down Catton Rec, this will be lead by Zachary Fisher.

We have also started the process of updating our website and will look to have all training, fixtures and social events posted for those who want to play, follow or support us throughout this coming season.

The website address is; <https://oldcatton.play-cricket.com/>

League wise the first team remain in Alliance Division Five East and will be captained this season by Deane Anderton and the second team will play in the Division 3 NE Norfolk Cricket league whilst being captained by Greg Crisp. The club will also run a friendly Sunday side who will play infrequently throughout the season.

The club also take part midweek in a friendly 20/20 league under the Grasshoppers CC name. Fixtures below:-

Weds May 11th	Ashby (A)	Weds June 22nd	Ashby (H)
Thurs May 19th	Rangers (H)	Weds June 29th	Laurence Scott (H)
Thurs May 26th	Marlingford (A)	Thurs July 7th	Rangers (A)
Thurs June 2nd	Greens (A)	Thurs July 14th	Hockey club (H)
Tues June 7th	Arthurs (A)	Thurs July 21st	Marlingford (A)
Tues June 14th	Wombles (H)	Thurs July 28th	Greens (H)

As a club we are always open to attracting new players of all abilities, adults or juniors, to this friendly club. If you are interested in playing for us, or helping in any way, please contact the following: **Adults Giles Pickett, gtp38@hotmail.com Greg Crisp, gregs111@sky.com Juniors Zachary Fisher, fisherz538@gmail.com .**

Barry Prime Chairman OCCC

GIRLGUIDING CATTON DISTRICT

This year we have been enjoying being back to face to face guiding for a whole year with no 'lockdowns' however we have had to adapt and change with the restrictions and advice. Many months were spent outdoors, using the Old Catton Recreation Ground hard standing for weekly meetings, while still completing many of our programme activities. Many of the units taking the options of outdoor adventurous activities at Hautbois Activity Centre and Eaton Vale Scout and Guide centre.



A huge congratulations to the girls that have been working hard on badges at home and completing Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards across the sections. I had the pleasure to award these in February when we held our first big get together in 2 years. We celebrated the Queens Jubilee on Thinking Day.

Not only do we have units in Old Catton which consist of 2 Rainbow, 2 Brownie, 2 Guide and 1 Ranger unit but we also have 1 Brownie and 1 Rainbow unit in Spixworth. Below are a few of the units letting us know what we have been up to this last few months.

2nd Old Catton Rainbows have been working really hard over the past couple of months on achieving their skills for their future badges and the rainbows have enjoyed making their own fruit salads and learning key safety skills around cutting. 14 of our Rainbows achieved their rainbows bronze award which was amazing and we spent time making lots of Easter crafts and having an Easter egg hunt.



1st Old Catton Brownies have spent the last term visiting a dairy, learning about where our food comes from, celebrating Chinese New Year, tasting different foods and understanding different dietary requirements, making Mother's Day plant pots filled with daffodil bulbs and enjoying some Easter cooking! We finished the term by awarding lots of badges but also a Gold award and will be working hard to hopefully get more completed this term.

In unit meetings, Old Catton Rangers have worked on their self care, created plastic pollution manifestos and found out about some inspirational women this term. They also worked out how to investigate a crime and found some time for baking experiments too. In February we had a residential weekend delving into Girlguiding Norfolk history and escaping from Hautbois church - we almost got out in time with 5 seconds to go! Lots more fun to be had next term I'm sure and more skills to be developed.

Sadly in the last year we have had leaders leave as they have moved onto new jobs, new areas or retirement but we also lost Sandra Failes who passed away in March. She was a very big part of 1st Old Catton Brownies for 29 years and will be missed very much.

With this in mind we really do need new adult helpers for all our units and would love for you to join us! To join Girlguiding as an adult <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-your-interest/>

To register your daughter/wards interest <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Catherine Clarke—District Commissioner

MOBILE LIBRARY

Mobile Library returns to Old Catton on the following dates:

26th April 2022
24th May 2022
2^{1st} June 2022
19th July 2022
16th August 2022
13th September 2022
11th October 2022
8^h November 2022
6^h December 2022



More information available on:
www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/mobile-libraries

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

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



WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL?

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish and has an overall responsibility for the wellbeing of its local community. It is the level of government closest to the community and is invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas.

Parish Councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, helping local groups, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

It is true that on their own parish councils have limited powers to make decisions but they have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as District Council, police, etc).

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR COUNCIL DOES FOR YOUR PARISH?

Your Parish Council has a number of responsibilities within the Parish – are you aware what they are?

Around the Parish your Parish Council are responsible for:

- the maintenance of most of the green spaces within Old Catton. This includes the Recreation Ground on Church Street, Lavaré Park on Buxton Road and Woodham Leas green area. At the Church Street site this includes the management and maintenance the Pavilion and of all sports and recreation facilities including the bowling green, cricket pitches, netball and tennis courts, multi-use games area (MUGA) and the children's play areas. At Lavaré Park, which is on a long-term lease to Old Catton Junior Football Club, this includes the children's play area, green space and car park at Austin Way.
- the management and maintenance of Old Catton Cemetery, the War Memorial and the maintenance of St Margaret's Churchyard.
- the maintenance of the bus stops on White Woman Lane, The Paddocks (at Morrisons), Lodge Lane and St Faiths Road (near Garrick Green).
- the noticeboards on St Faiths Road, Church Street, George Hill, Norman Drive and the corner of White Woman Lane.
- maintenance of most of the streetlighting around the Parish.
- maintenance of grass verges around the Parish.
- maintenance of the cat and the barrel village sign.
- maintenance of memorial benches around the village.

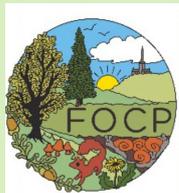
Through the Parish Charity your Parish Council also provides support to the Allotments on Spixworth Road and through Catton Park Trust the Parish Council supports the maintenance of Catton Park.

Your Parish Council also provides consultation on planning applications, crime matters, provide support and guidance to local groups/societies/organisations. Your Council also provides support to the youth of the Parish through facilities at the Recreation Ground for the Old Catton Youth Club and Lavaré Park for Old Catton Junior Football Club.

Being a Councillor is a voluntary position. It is a tireless and thankless job – many residents complain, few compliment. Councillors, many still in full time employment, give their time freely to improve the quality of life in the Parish.



FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK



Back in the dim and distant past in March 2020, the last event we hosted just before the first lockdown, was Daffodil Day. How fitting that we re-started our programme of events with Daffodil Day 2022! We were so fortunate that the day was sunny, if a little cold in the wind, as during the previous week Old Catton had been blasted by wind, hail and a smattering of snow. Six lovely gardens around the village were open to visitors, and at one of the gardens we offered delicious homemade soup and scones available as part of the event.



Just two weeks later and the Easter Bunny's helpers were out hiding cardboard eggs in the woodland in Catton Park. Nearly 150 children and their families took part in the hunt in warm spring sunshine. The children exchanged the cardboard eggs for a chocolate bunny and a drink of squash and a bun, whilst adults were able to purchase tea or coffee along with tempting cakes. Our thanks to all who took part in these events, opened their gardens or volunteered help on the day – we couldn't do this without you. Special thanks to Sarah and Gail for selling tickets on our behalf from the Parish Council offices.

Many of you will be marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in some way – we will have a stall at the Family Fun Day on 2nd June. We look forward to seeing you then. The Friends are also purchasing two trees to be planted in the Park as part of the commemoration of the Jubilee.

FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK

Greeting Cards
Sold in aid of Friends of Catton Park

£6 for six cards

AVAILABLE AT PAVILION, CHURCH STREET
OR AT FRIENDS' EVENTS

Coming up later in the late summer we will be hosting a bat walk in the Park and in late October the Lantern Parade. Look out for information on these events on the website at www.cattonpark.com, posters around the village, the church magazine and local Facebook pages. We also give advance notice of our events in our newsletters sent to members.



We have some packs of attractive blank greetings cards for sale featuring photographs of the Park by local residents. Packs of six mixed cards cost just £6 and are available from the Parish Council Office and at our events – including our Jubilee Fun Day stall.

All money raised from subscriptions and events (after expenses) goes to the Park. We were delighted that part of a previous donation went towards the wonderful sculpture trail around the Park. If you would like to support us by becoming a Friend please either visit the website or email us at friends@cattonpark.com.

Brigit Chisholm, Chair & Gill Renouf, Secretary



Honorary Village Person Award



Congratulations to the winners of the Old Catton Honorary Village Person Award. Awards go to:-

Roger Campling who has organised monthly walks for the residents of Old Catton for many years, enabling many villagers to enjoy exercise and the companionship of friends in the beautiful Norfolk Countryside

Victoria Sherlock who was instrumental in co-ordinating support for vulnerable residents and self isolators of Old Catton and the wider community during the Covid Pandemic.

Volunteers of The Warren who gave a huge amount of time and effort during lockdown to transform a very overgrown area of no-mans land at the Warren, giving it a new lease of life for residents to enjoy.

Clare Lincoln who runs the Sprowston Youth Engagement Project in Old Catton and Sprowston. SYEP provides a safe space for youngsters to socialise and learn new skills, also offering support and advice for drug and alcohol issues, sexual health, mental health and emotional well being.

MESSAGE FROM PC GRAHAM GILL



This year I have mainly been concentrating on the priorities set by members of the public and the local councillors. The priorities have mostly remained the same during the year, concentrating on speeding and anti-social behaviour.

I am pleased to say that, although there has been some anti-social behaviour in Old Catton, it has remained low. Crime figures for the Old Catton area remain at a very low level.

To combat anti-social behaviour, we have been conducting hi-visibility and plain-clothed patrols both in vehicles and on foot. We have been conducting speed checks and I am liaising with partner agencies to see what else we can do in the 20mph limits, which still give local residents cause for concern. This will be an ongoing project.

With the country now returning to 'normal' since the Covid Pandemic, we have been conducting engagement surgeries. Members of the public are encouraged to speak with me about their local concerns. We will be conducting surgeries at least once per month and these are advertised on local social media sites.

If, however, you do have any concerns you do not have to wait for the engagement surgeries to tell me - you can always contact me on sntsprowston@norfolk.police.uk. Alternatively, please stop me when you see me out and about. I would also encourage you to report crime and anti-social behaviour to the police - this is really important so that we can prioritise our patrol areas.

GETTING BACK TO NORMAL—OLD CATTON EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Our reports for the last couple of Parish Council newsletters were called 'Keeping in Touch' ... Not only did we do this, support each other and strengthen our friendships, but quite a few of us now look back and realise we've become pretty good at using Zoom and doing other 'techy' things we wouldn't have even thought about before Covid-19. A small silver lining, perhaps?

As someone who helps with the delivery of newsletters etc, I also reflect on how much I've enjoyed visiting Catton Park more often, as well as getting to know footpaths, lokes and short cuts ... my step count is up!

After a winter of lockdown Zooms and phone calls followed by a 'careful' spring, July 5th 2021 marked our first WI get-together: we held a picnic at the Recreation Ground to mark NHS & Key Workers' Day.

Sincere thanks to Gail Howes at the Parish Council for her assistance – and for lending us the key to the 'facilities, of course!

Many members had knitted trauma teddies for children caught up in hospital admissions and other emergencies; some had also created twiddle muffs to help people suffering with restless' forms of dementia.

We invited Carol Plunkett, Charity Lead at the Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust, to come and tell us about her role and collect the teddies and twiddle muffs for distribution. Her brief talk was engaging and interesting, we were lucky with the weather .. and it was SO good to be able to meet in person, albeit in a group of 30 max whilst maintaining social distance.

Of course, we'd also like to think that our committee members provided some unexpected entertainment for mid-morning joggers and strollers as we put up our gazebo ...

After this we held two garden parties and the last of our 'remote' monthly meetings. We re-started our meetings in the Village Hall in October 2021. We've been careful: masks, distancing, hand sanitiser, limited raffle arrangements, piano playing but no singing ... Even with these restrictions, it is still wonderful to be back – although some of us are still shielding, so newsletters, Zooms and phone calls will continue.

Members agreed to let winter colds, flu and Norovirus have their day, aiming to get back to normal from April 2022 – at the time of writing, we look forward to our first meeting without restrictions: singing, birthday posies, sale tables and other traditional features of our WI meetings will start again. We meet on the third Wednesday evening of each month; new members are always welcome ... everyone can attend up to three meetings before deciding whether our WI is right for them.

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

Shelagh Maple, Secretary, OCEWI

Q: Did you know? ... If you join any single WI, you also join the Norfolk and National Federations. Whether your interests lie in crafts, history, gardening, travel, socialising, baking or other areas, there are lots of events, communities, courses and activities available. If you are interested in joining Old Catton WI and/or our Craft, Book or Strollers groups, please contact President Lorna Brigden on 07794 714621 or me: shelaghnr7@gmail.com





THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE 2022

Old Catton Parish Council and the local community will commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2nd June 2022.

A FAMILY FUN DAY will take place at the Recreation Ground on Church Street, Old Catton, NR6 7DS from 11am to 4pm. Attractions include:-

Rodeo Bull, Face Painting, Children's Entertainer, Food Stalls & Bar, Craft Stalls, Competitions, Football Shoot Out & Much More...



From 6pm you are invited to **PICNIC IN THE PARK**, a free live music event at Catton Park Picnic area. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic and chair. Refreshment stalls will also be available. At 9.35pm, pipers across the UK and Commonwealth will play *Diu Regnare*, especially written as a tribute to Her Majesty The Queen. Old Catton will be represented by local piper George Rokahr. The evening will culminate with the lighting of the beacon as the sun sets at 9.45pm together with over 1,500 beacons throughout the UK and Commonwealth.

No onsite parking will be available at either event



THE QUEEN'S
PLATINUM JUBILEE
BEACONS
2ND JUNE 2022

Editors: Sarah Vincent and Gail Howes

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