

Phase 1— Recreation Ground, Church Street
Over 80% of questionnaire respondents asked
for improved facilities
Here's what's been happening

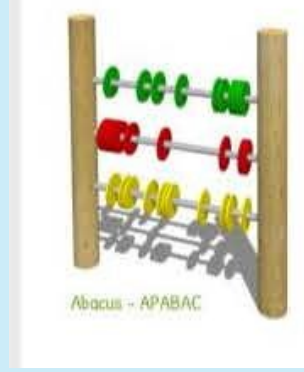
What facilities should be included in the community centre?

The top five answers	Responses	
Café	83.05%	will be at Lavare Park
Improved toilet facilities	81.78%	Recreation Ground
Free wifi	72.03%	
Hall space	61.86%	will be at Lavare Park
Bar/Social Club	61.86%	will be at Lavare Park



Our thanks to our Contractors for all their hard work

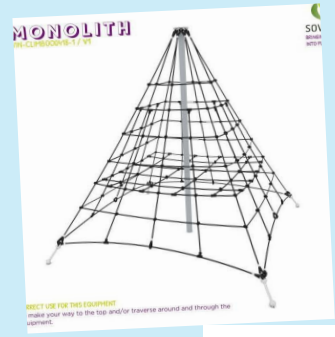
BLENDING THE OLD WITH THE NEW



We listened to your feedback and are introducing equipment you've asked for. Rather than replacing your much-loved equipment, we're keeping it and pairing it with the new additions.

By reusing and upgrading what we already have, we're reducing waste, minimising unnecessary manufacturing, and lowering our environmental impact.

It's a thoughtful blend of familiar and fresh—and a more environmentally responsible way of moving forward.





HIDE AND SEEK TRAIL

Fun for everyone

DOUBLE SIDED CLIMBING WALL



Introducing new activities for everyone to enjoy located near the Over 9s playground

OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the 2026 Spring Newsletter

I hope you will be pleased to see the many positive developments highlighted in this edition, including building works, improvements to the Cemetery and continued support for community wellbeing. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Wellbeing Champions – John, Glenn and Tabby.

I am particularly proud that the Council has secured funding for the Old Catton Lunch Club, which I hope will become a valuable hub for the village community.

Building works have now commenced at the Recreation Ground, and the Council is delighted to be making the best use of available S106 funding for the benefit of residents. Earlier pages showcase the new building and play equipment designed for all ages, and I hope you will agree this is a worthwhile investment. We look forward to seeing the community enjoy these new facilities soon and to welcoming our sports groups back for the 2027 season.

Following the break-in at Catton Park and the encampment at Sprowston Recreation Ground and Rugby Club, additional security measures have been introduced to help protect our valuable spaces. While there was some initial disruption, I hope residents feel reassured that these sites are now better safeguarded.

We have also worked in partnership with Broadland District Council to support Old Catton Horticultural Society in the planting of 25 mature trees at Oakfield Gardens. A new bench will shortly be installed near the orchard as part of the Pride in Place project.

It is with sadness that we mark the retirement of Malcolm Vincent, who stepped down after 33 years of dedicated service as an Old Catton Councillor. We thank him for his tireless contributions in helping shape the Parish into the place we are all proud to call home. His departure leaves three vacancies on the Council – if you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please see the final page of this newsletter for further details.

Your Parish Councillors:

Mr B Sabberton-Coe (Chairman)
chair@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr T Cooke (Vice Chairman)
vice@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr J Arnott
j.arnott@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr M Callam
m.callam@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr G Crouch
g.crouch@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr B Leggett
b.leggett@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr G Tingle
g.tingle@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Miss P Wilkin
p.wilkin@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr M Winhall
m.winhall@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

I would also like to thank the regular volunteers at Catton Park. If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit, I encourage you to follow John's facebook blog, which provides regular updates on the valuable work being carried out.

Finally, I would like to highlight the outstanding work of our grounds staff, led by Head Groundsman Ross and Park Warden Matt, who celebrates 20 years of service this year. Alongside Chris, Graham, Tabby and Christine, they work tirelessly in all conditions to maintain the high standards of our Parish facilities. Their dedication plays a vital role in keeping Old Catton a beautiful and welcoming place to live. My sincere thanks go to them all for their exceptional efforts over the past year.

All that remains is for me to thank my fellow Councillors and the Council staff, particularly Sarah and Vanessa, for their continued support, expert advice, and tireless hard work. I am proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Bradley Sabberton-Coe, Chairman

CATTON PARK

It has been another busy and productive year at Catton Park, ongoing maintenance and conservation work remain a constant priority.

As spring arrives and temperatures rise, the park becomes an ideal place to relax and enjoy nature. Visitors can take advantage of the many benches positioned throughout the grounds to appreciate the scenery and birdsong. These benches are constructed from solid oak by the Catton Park team and are built to last over 20 years. Some of the original benches have already exceeded this lifespan and are due for replacement in the coming years.



Throughout the summer months, our dedicated volunteers and Park Assistant work tirelessly to maintain the park's appearance and accessibility. This includes mowing footpaths through the meadow grass, caring for the sculpture trail, and carrying out regular upkeep of key features. One notable task is the painting of the ornamental wrought iron gates and railings at the South Lodge entrance. These historic gates, designed by Barnard, Bishop and Barnard of Norwich around 1860—renowned for crafting the gates at the Sandringham Estate—require careful attention to preserve their condition and visual appeal.

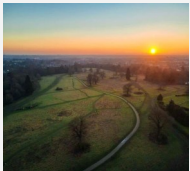
At the end of summer, the wildflower meadow is carefully mown. Delaying this process allows flowers to fully set seed, supporting a rich diversity of plant and insect life. The meadow features species such as yellow rattle, a beneficial parasitic plant that helps maintain grassland balance, alongside striking ox-eye daisies. Later in the season, visitors may also spot six-spot burnet moths hovering among the taller wildflowers, adding to the park's vibrant ecosystem.

Tree management is another significant focus within the park. Each year, we undertake extensive planting of parkland trees, reflecting the landscape as it would have appeared in the 1800s, alongside essential tasks such as weeding and mulching. Increasingly, extreme weather conditions place added stress on mature trees, often necessitating specialist tree surgery to ensure they remain safe for visitors.

With 20 acres of woodland under our care, the winter months are dedicated to habitat management. This includes cutting back areas of scrub where necessary. While scrub is valuable for wildlife, selective clearance allows more light and air to reach the ground, encouraging healthy regeneration and biodiversity.

Litter collection is an ongoing task throughout the year, both across the park and in the pond. On occasion, this involves donning waders to retrieve items from the water—ranging from scooters to even discarded computers.

Warden, Catton Park



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 per year to maintain (the emptying dog bins costs over £6,500 per 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 JustGiving GoFundMe pages (www.justgiving.com/cattonpark) (www.gofundme.com/f/raise-funds-towards-running-costs-of-catton-park).

The **Old Catton Village Hall** is a unique Village Hall. It was built in the 1800s and is a Grade II listed building having been as the orangery to Catton Hall. It is at present being run by Trustees forming the management committee and has charity status.

It is widely used by various groups in the community the Busy Beavers Playgroup hire the hall on weekdays during school terms. Other groups are the Girl Guides, the Old Catton Evening Women's Institute, the Old Catton Society, Yoga classes, Horticulture, Rangers and the Royal British Legion.

Saturdays are usually free to be hired for family parties and other events There is capacity for hiring out the hall on some days especially during school holidays.

Enquiries for booking contact barryleggett30@gmail.com or tel. 01603 429986.

Barry Leggett

MOTHERS UNION EVENING BRANCH

We began our year with 13 members but at our January meeting we enrolled two more members, Loraine Elderfield and Jane Graham bringing our membership up to 15.

Following our review of events in 2024 we had mulled wine and nibbles.

On the 31st January 7 members and 3 guests went to the Theatre Royal to see "Singing in the Rain" which sent us home in a very happy mood and was enjoyed by us all.

Our Lent service in February was taken by Rev 'd Laurie Janicker at which 10 members attended.

On the 31st March we had a members evening when 11 members attended.

For our April meeting we had a poetry evening, and each member brought a poem they liked and read it to the group. Disappointingly only 4 members and 1 guest attended.

For our May meeting, which was held on 2nd June because of the Bank Holiday Sheila Tuffield came and spoke about The Global History of Mothers' Union. This was a very interesting talk covering a lot of facts and figures. 7 members and 3 guests attended.

We visited the Norwich Plantation Garden for our outing. The evening was lovely with the sun shining and being very warm. The garden looked beautiful though due to the hot weather had dried up a little. Afterwards we all enjoyed a meal at The Black Horse on Earlham Road next to the garden. 8 members and 1 guest attended.

For our July meeting Valli Rao from Eaton MU came along and gave a talk about her trip to India to take funds raised for The Leprosy Mission which she supported. Even though the disease is now controlled by medicine people still suffer from the stigma of the disease, 8 members attended.

We had a break for August and met up again in September. One of our members and her daughter kindly hosted a cheese and wine evening when 8 members attended.

In October we had a craft evening and one of our members showed us how to make a Christmas card by sewing a thread through holes in the card to make the shape of a Christmas tree. Everyone managed to make at least one card, 7 members and 3 guest came.

November was our Christmas outing and we visited The George Restaurant off Newmarket Road, Norwich. We all had a very enjoyable meal, and it was a good end of the year for our MU meetings. 8 members and 1 guest attended.

Monies have been raised from our refreshments served after the second and fourth Sunday church services, from the congregation. These are given to our projects; AFIA (Away From It All); holidays for disadvantaged families; Refugee Bedding Fund; Norwich Diocese fund new bedding for refugees housed by the Norfolk County Council in partnership with People from Abroad. The donations also support our Presents for Prisoners' Children for those wishing to take part at The Wayland Prison. We donated four presents for this year.

Our members also knit cross in your pockets for the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital Chaplains to give out to patients and visitors.

Non-members of the MU also knit baby hats for newborns for the hospital and donate other items to our projects.

We also send baptism cards to the children christened in St. Margarets for the following five years. Posies are given to their mothers to welcome the child into the family of God on behalf of the congregation and the Mothers' Union.

On the 2nd March four MU members from Catton, Sprowston, Lowestoft and Norwich went to Ely to meet our new President, Kathleen Snow. Unfortunately, she was delayed, and we had to leave before the meeting had ended. However, we did get to talk to her and had a shared lunch with her.

We did not have a Festival Service this year as it will be MU's 150th Anniversary in 2026 and there will be a number of activities and celebrations.

We look forward to celebrating our 150th Anniversary and look forward to our membership growing.

Elizabeth Fletcher, EMU's Committee Member

Loneliness awareness week: 15-21 June 2026
See our Mindful Village page for support networks
Please remember to spare a thought for others

2ND OLD CATTON BROWNIES

We are pleased to announce that the 2nd Old Catton Brownies unit has been re-established, effective from the Autumn term last year. As the leader of this rejuvenated group, we are thrilled to have on-boarded several new members, and we invite girls aged 7 to 10 years old to join us. Our unit has experienced significant growth and expansion in activities and excursions, having commenced our third term. This term promises exciting events, including an adventure challenge at the Hautbois Activity Centre Open Day in May and a potential residential weekend trip later in the year. Furthermore, we are currently undertaking fundraising efforts to create a unit flag, which will solidify our identity within the Girlguiding community and district.

Parents interested in registering their daughters can visit www.Girlguiding.org.uk/register-a-child. For those willing to support our fundraising initiatives through donations, please contact us at 2ndoldcattonbrownies@gmail.com.

Our objective is to serve the girls and the broader community through Girlguiding. We hold our meetings every Thursday from 6pm to 7:30pm at St Margaret's Church Hall, Blacksmiths Way, Old Catton.

OLD CATTON RANGERS

There's been lots of activities and adventures this term for Old Catton Rangers. They've practiced self-defence, developed communication skills, taken time to relax with some diamond art and slime making. Whilst completing the 'A whole new world' challenge badge of course baking also featured with some lamp shaped biscuits and houmous making! Outside of the meeting place they've been on a trip to the Pantomime to cheer on one of their own, took part in a sponsored walk and helped run a quiz night fundraising for an international jamboree in summer 2026, and headed off for a daytrip to York joining other Girlguiding members from across the country in a day long game around the city centre - the fun hasn't stopped! Those who came on the York adventure said: "I really loved the day, I had a great time exploring a new city with friends and meeting new people as well! I'm glad that I went and got to experience all the famous streets and places that I wouldn't normally see thank you for taking us!"

"I really really enjoyed my time in York, it was so fun to be able to see the city whilst playing a game. It was so much fun being able to do it with my friends as well."

"I enjoyed the day a lot, I really liked being able to explore a new city and have fun with my friends. Thank you for taking us!"



More adventures are planned for this term with a Traitors themed sleepover coming soon. Rangers is the Girlguiding section for 14-18 year olds and Old Catton Rangers meet twice a month on a Thursday evening. Get in touch if you're interested in joining us - oldcattonrangers@gmail.com or register directly here <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

1st Old Catton Guides and 2nd Old Catton Guides

has had busy start to the year. 18 Guides have been raising monies towards their adventure to Poacher 2026 International Jamboree this summer. They have completed a Sponsored Walk and a very successful Quiz night. Raising over £1200 between the two events.

Others have been working hard on their badges and Awards with



two Guides completing their final challenges this month to earn their Gold Award. One unit learnt skills for first aid and the other unit did activities to get to know themselves better. The unit has done litter picks in the dark, STEM activities with the RAF STEM team and of course we have had plenty of food and craft related evenings!

In February we joined the district at an event where we celebrated the 100 yrs of Thinking Day with songs, games and crafts. 138 in attendance and a great day had.



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
assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

OLD CATTON HORTICULTURAL CLUB

OCHC has had a very good year and currently has a membership of almost 80. In addition to the monthly club meetings with speakers, we have held both Spring and Autumn Shows, a record-breaking public Plant and Cake Sale, a coach trip to Cambridge Botanic Gardens, a members Afternoon Tea and a Christmas Social where we were entertained by the Bellingrings. All our activities have been well supported which has helped us to maintain our annual membership fee at £15. Monthly meetings are free for members but visitors are always welcome for £2.50 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.



As well as these core events, the Club has continued to support the Oakfield Gardens Community Orchard Project near Swansgate. The 30 fruit trees planted almost 4 years ago are thriving with many fruiting last year. The hedging is finally becoming more established despite the dry summer. In October, we organised another bulb planting session and also planted some primroses and violets. All these have looked lovely in the last few weeks. Two pruning workshops were held on the site and members of the club and an increasing number of the community have continued to help maintain and improve the Orchard area. Recently, we were awarded a Future For Nature Fund Grant which, in conjunction with Broadland District Council, enabled us to plant 2 avenues of 25 native and climate resilient trees either side of the main paths across the Swansgate green space. It is hoped that as well as more aesthetically pleasing it will increase the biodiversity of the area. Thank also to Old Catton Parish Council for their support.



On Friday 11th September we are holding a special ticketed Cheese and Wine evening during which TV gardener, Nick Bailey, will be giving a talk entitled "Confessions of a TV Gardener". All are welcome. Tickets for non-members are £14. If you would like to know more, please contact Liz Brown (Secretary): email: ochcsec@btinternet.com or ring 07484676053



Neighbourhood Policing Team

Tell us your community concerns

If you have an issue or concern where you live, tell the police and their partners at the next priority setting meeting.

For the Sprowston, Old Catton, Thorpe, Wroxham and Acle Safer Neighbourhood Team, please visit:

<https://www.police.uk/your-area/norfolk-constabulary/sprowston/?yourlocalpolicingteam=meetings-and-events>

email the Safer Neighbourhood Team with any community concerns: SNTSprowston@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

FEEDBACK

Following feedback on social media last year the Parish Council will not be organising a garage sale this year.

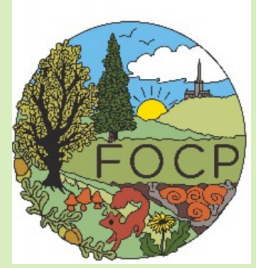
We understand that friends and neighbours may prefer to organise their own sales and coordinate within their locality.

We hope you will continue your support of Catton Park in other ways, recycling glass is always welcome.

See Parish Council website and noticeboards for details of monthly meetings. www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK

What a busy year for the Friends! Last year marked the 20th anniversary since the Friends held their first annual general meeting and were formally created. As part of the celebrations, we hosted a concert with the Sheringham Shantymen in the Park on a summer's evening in mid-July. The Shantymen were in fine voice, entertaining the audience with a programme of sea shanties and traditional songs. The audience were invited to participate in some of the songs and some brave people got up to dance during the encore number. The Shantymen were so impressed that they performed a second encore!



As reported in the last Parish annual newsletter the Friends created a plantation of 50 young elms near the picnic area in the hope that some of these trees will mature and be resistant to Dutch Elm disease. Most of the saplings survived their first year and we expect that some more mature trees will be planted in that area to promote biodiversity. The Friends also purchased some more mature specimen trees planted in the north eastern area of the Park.

Other events during the past year have included two Quiz and Chilli nights – both well attended and fiercely competitive. The home cooked chilli is particularly popular with the quizzers. Back in the autumn we hosted the annual Lantern Parade – a free, community event which attracted nearly 200 people who walked through the darkened Park with lanterns down to the picnic area where they enjoyed a light show and refreshments. We also arranged two bat walks in early autumn. These were well attended by people but disappointingly few bats responded to the invitation! We don't know whether bat numbers in the east of England are down or if it is a local phenomenon. Perhaps the hot, dry summer reduced the number of insects on which the bats feed. Most recently, nearly 140 children and their families enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We were really fortunate with the weather as it stayed dry. The children had a great time searching for cardboard eggs in the woodland which they exchanged for a chocolate bunny and a drink and bun. We also had cake and coffee available for the adults. Many people stayed after the hunt to enjoy the lovely picnic area.

The programme for the rest of 2026 includes our AGM on Wednesday 20 May with a guest speaker. All are welcome to attend. On Sunday 31 May you are invited to our Open Gardens event with gardens open across the village. Later in the summer, on Saturday 1 August we will be looking for moths in the Park. This is always a fascinating event. In the autumn we will host the Lantern Parade and hope to host some guided walks in the Park and hold another Quiz night.

Finally, some thanks. Firstly, our thanks to Catton Park Trust for allowing us to hold events in the Park. Thanks to Sarah and Vanessa at the Parish Council offices and to Matt, the Park Warden, for their invaluable support and assistance to the Friends. Thank you to all who support our events. We try to arrange a variety of events and are always open to suggestions. And last, but not least, huge thanks to all our volunteers. We really appreciate the time that people give to helping out at our events – we could not put them on without you.

We have some items available to purchase to support the Friends. We have some lovely, branded golf umbrellas at £18 to members and £22 to non-members. We also have some packs of six mixed blank greetings cards featuring photographs of the park taken by local residents at £6 per pack. These are available at all our events or if you are interested, please contact us (details below).

If you would like to join the Friends please contact us at friends@cattonpark.com. Rates start at just £8 for a year's membership. Friends receive three or four newsletters each year with advance information about our events and offers. Information about the Friends and our events can be found on the website at www.cattonpark.com

Gill Renouf, Secretary

OLD CATTON CEMETERY

Over the last year we have installed a new noticeboard, replaced the gate on the lychgate, installed accessibility ramps and improved the drainage of the car park. Planning application to extend the Cemetery has been submitted and is awaiting approval.

Memorial Tree was introduced in December and was well received. Based on feedback, we hope to provide this poignant memorial to honour your loved ones annually.

Our Ground Staff pride themselves in keeping the Cemetery looking so beautiful and are grateful for the kind comments we have received.

Cemetery information is posted in the new noticeboard and on our website:

www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/local-services/cemetery.html



OLD CATTON CRICKET CLUB

With the cricket season fast approaching, Old Catton Cricket Club will again be running two Saturday sides for the 2026 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 also run a Sunday side playing friendlies up until August.

This summer we will be running the England Cricket Board (ECB) children's Dynamo's cricket sessions starting on Tuesday's from May 12th between 6-7pm for 8 weeks - these will be held on the playing field at Old Catton Recreation Ground. The Dynamo's sessions are aimed at children aged between 8-11 years old and all are welcome, no matter what ability or experience with cricket. The sessions are run by ECB qualified coaches, who are supported by players from our 1st and 'A' teams. For further details please contact Jarrod Robson (ECB qualified coach) on robsonjarrod@gmail.com. As always children within the age range of 8-11 years are very welcome, both existing and new to Dynamo's.

If you have any interest in playing (adult) cricket for Old Catton CC please contact us at gtp38@hotmail.com

If you would like to sponsor the team 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 - @Oldcattoncricketclub; Play Cricket – www.oldcatton.play-cricket.com;

Facebook - @Oldcattoncricketclub



Please note that this season home cricket fixtures are not able to be played at Old Catton Recreation Ground. This is due to the building works taking place from March until July 2026 at the Recreation Ground. Further details are available regarding match venues if you would like to consider joining our club.

OLD CATTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Old Catton Junior Football Club continues to go from strength to strength, with a season full of success both on and off the pitch. The club is proud of the achievements of all its players, coaches, and volunteers who have contributed to another fantastic year.

In partnership with our stakeholders, we are excited to announce the launch of a new fully limited facilities company. This important step will enable us to invest in improved facilities and infrastructure, helping to take Old Catton JFC to the next level and further establish us as one of Norfolk's leading grassroots football clubs.

We are also proud to share that the club now supports 28 teams across both boys' and girls' football, with continued growth in participation. In particular, we are leading the way locally in the development of girls' football. As part of this commitment, we are delighted to introduce our new Old Catton JFC Wildcats/Girls Intake Day, taking place on Saturday, 6th September. This initiative aims to welcome new players and continue building a strong future for the girls' game at the club.

As the club continues to grow, we are looking to expand our volunteer network. We are launching a new volunteer list to support the delivery of major club events, including Sounds@Lavare and our Grand Fireworks Night. If you are interested in getting involved and supporting your local club, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at Admin@oldcattonjfc.co.uk.



Thank you to everyone who continues to support Old Catton Junior Football Club



Allotment awareness week Aug 10th to 16th
Interested in renting an allotment?
Contact us to join the waiting list: 01603 423880
or email assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

BRITISH LEGION—OLD CATTON BRANCH

Behind the scenes the Old Catton RBL have had a busy start to the year.

In January Lindsay was honoured to attend the 103rd birthday of Mike Howard, who was featured on the BBC Festival of Remembrance last year. He is an accomplished author and poet and read to us two of his ghost stories. We had a grand time. In February we attended the Norfolk County RBL conference in which our youth member, Ewan Corless was officially appointed as Norfolk County Youth Standard Bearer, and has since gone on to win the regional Standard Bearer competition.



We held an afternoon tea at the end of February to thank our poppy appeal volunteers and supporters for all their help. We have a wonderful bunch of volunteers and this annual afternoon tea, with homemade cakes and pastries, savouries and sweet treats is our way of showing them our gratitude.



We have just enjoyed another successful quiz night where we raised over £400. Maureen, our vice-chair, sets the questions – something for everyone – and Steve (our treasurer) is an excellent quizmaster! New and regular teams always enjoy it. Look out for our next one in October. Our fundraising focus for this year has been for our new Standard which we have just taken delivery of from Newton and Newton Flags who produce all of the Legion's Standards to a very high quality. Our old standard will be used for training and we will be having a service in the summer to dedicate the new one. Did you know that our standard bearers

attend funerals of veterans? This lends a special dignity to the occasion, in tribute to the service of the deceased. This is something families can request by contacting us.

We are also involved in the project to redevelop the gardens at the Legion's care home in Cromer. Halsey House is a wonderfully joyous care home. It is exclusively for the Armed Forces community veterans, serving personnel, and their families. That creates something rare: a place where everyone understands each other's experiences without needing to explain. Residents form strong bonds and naturally look out for one another, creating a deep sense of camaraderie. Though they no longer wear the uniform, their service is always talked about, acknowledged and honoured. This is the 80th year of the care home and the two courtyard gardens are being redeveloped with the residents in mind. Raised beds - so they can take part in gardening activities, a water feature, lighting, and seating areas have all been designed, and a contractor secured. Our Sea Cadets and volunteers will be helping to provide the "muscle" for the enterprise. Lindsay visits Halsey House every Monday to lead singing for wellbeing sessions with the residents. And it's the highlight of her week! What truly makes Halsey House stand out is the combination of professional care and shared identity. It's not just about meeting needs—it's about belonging to a community that understands military life, values service, and treats residents with genuine respect. It isn't just a care home – it is a continuation of the armed forces community and as a branch we are delighted to be involved with this project.

At the beginning of the year, Lindsay announced that she will be stepping down as Chair at the October AGM due to moving to Wiltshire. We will therefore be looking for a new Chair to lead our incredible committee. We welcome all newcomers to our friendly meetings. You don't need to have served in the military to join the RBL and serve within the Legion - Lindsay hasn't, and neither has half of our committee! But our committee members who *are* veterans, enjoy the camaraderie of being with likeminded people within the RBL branch. We all find a great deal of satisfaction in serving within the Legion. The Royal British legion's motto is "Service not Self" and that is always our focus. That said, there is nothing better for lifting your own spirits, and self-esteem than doing something for someone else, and this is a brilliant environment in which to do that. We can use people with organisational skills, empathy, the ability to chat, an interest in veterans affairs, the desire to make a difference in the world, a friendly face!

Becoming part of a committee with the Royal British Legion is more than volunteering—it's a chance to stand at the heart of a community that honours service, supports veterans, and shapes meaningful change. By stepping forward, you bring your voice, your ideas, and your compassion to a cause that has stood strong for generations. Whether organizing events, supporting those in need, or helping guide future initiatives, your contribution truly matters. It's an opportunity to build lasting connections, develop new skills, and make a real difference in the lives of others. Join, serve, and be part of something bigger than yourself—because together, we can ensure that no one who has served is ever forgotten.

Please get in touch oldcatton.chairman@rbl.community if you would like to know more.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

Since our last article in the Parish Council Newsletter, we have been busy in the church as always. It was very special to have so many turn up for the annual Remembrance Sunday Service with young and old alike, and a moving wreath laying at the War Memorial.

Christmas saw lots of people engage with the church, whether it was at the Christmas Fair, children's services or our candlelight services. We also had children, staff and teachers from schools and scouts in for their services.

Spring in the church brings Lent, leading us to remember and celebrate the Easter story. We will also be holding a Spring Fair – look out for the adverts.

The church provides regular activities throughout the year such as knit and natter meeting 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. Not forgetting that quarterly on Saturdays at 8.30am there is the Men's Breakfast in the hall.

Every Friday during term time our very popular Coffee, Chat and Company takes place in the church hall, offering a place where people can meet, chat and have refreshments, from 9am to 11.30am.

We also have our one off events such as a Valentines Tea, Lent Lunch and Harvest Supper.

The church hall is used by various uniformed groups and other regular activities and is also there for one off events, such as birthday parties and quizzes. The new toilets and car park, thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council, have helped to improve the facilities and we now have internet available as well as CCTV for safety and security. The next stage will be improvements in the kitchen again working with the Parish Council as part of the development of a luncheon club. We are also looking at our carbon footprint as we try to move towards NetZero.

Amazingly, the 'The Magazine' is still only 60p and you can pick up a copy in church, or you can pay an annual subscription to have it delivered. Published by the church it includes information not just about the church but also on various other groups, organisations and companies in Old Catton.

At the end of June, we hope to welcome our new Assistant Curate, Revd. Jessica, as she comes to us for the next stage in her ministry training.

Our main challenge, like many, is the struggle with finances as we rely solely on donations and fees for weddings and funerals, so it is a challenge to keep the church open and available for everyone including 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 reflection and prayer.

As always, we aim to be a Church which is very much a part of the community of Old Catton, to be a place of peace and support and there for life's events to show God's love for all.

Rev David Hagan-Palmer

Due to Phase 1 works many of our regular clubs will not be using the Recreation Ground. However, we will be welcoming **Dynamos Cricket** in May and **Wensum Bowls** in June. We look forward to the return of all our other clubs in 2027.

We are pleased to share that **Old Catton Bowls Club** look forward to returning to the Recreation Ground for the 2027 season. **Catton Bowls** are also expected to return in 2027

OLD CATTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The WI was founded to connect women, especially those moving to new areas. At all levels – international, national and local – this is still the aim today, achieved through education, fun and friendship.



At the time of writing the new WI year has just begun. Of course, the work for our programme for the year was completed some time ago: like many organisations we have a committee which plans events for members. The Committee changes as members step down and kind volunteers step up – always much appreciated.

Are you ever free on Tuesday mornings? If so, do pop in and see us for a Warm Welcome! It is open to all, not just women. As well as others who drop in, you will meet a friendly bunch of regular guests who have become friends since the group started in 2023. Whilst work is ongoing at the Recreation Ground we meet at the Church Hall on Blacksmiths Way – thanks to the Church and Parish Council for their help in getting us organised. Warm Welcome is from 10.30 – 12.30 on the first and third Tuesday of each month (although we meet every week in January and February).

Below are some of our regular WI activities:

- Meet in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday evening of every month, when we welcome a speaker on an aspect of craft, health, history or any topic we believe our members will enjoy;
- Run Warm Welcome on the first and third Tuesday morning of each month;
- Host *Get Comfortable Online* sessions to help members improve skills and confidence in all things digital;
- Run a strollers' group, craft group, book club, gardening group and weekly darts afternoons;
- Organise social events;
- Take part in Norfolk WI events such as the Centenary Salver craft competition, the Annual Meeting at the Theatre Royal, Lunch Club ...

Are you interested in joining the WI? If so, please contact me. You may attend up to three free meetings/ activities before you decide whether WI membership is for you. (Please note that we have capped our membership at 60 and have well over 50 renewals at the time of writing, so space is limited – we will run a waiting list if necessary.)

Shelagh Maple: shelaghr7@gmail.com
OCEWI Secretary

OLD CATTON SOCIETY



The Old Catton Society meets on the third Thursday in the month, except for August, in the Old Catton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

We have published 3 books, one of which is on the website and the other two “Old Catton in the Twentieth Century” and “Historic Houses of Old Catton” are available for purchase. The Society also arranged for the two Information boards in the village one outside the church and one opposite the war memorial.

The archives held by the society have been catalogued and access can be arranged for those interested in researching our past.

Our meetings usually consist of a speaker and coffee and biscuits. Our topics are informative and we welcome a range of speakers. Last year the star speaker was a forensic scientist, or ‘the real CSI’.

Looking forward we will be hearing about Norfolk Wherries, St Andrews Hospital, an Unusual Police career and Norwich Pleasure Gardens. See our website for more details.

Membership of the society costs £20 annual subscription (pro-rata for those joining throughout the year). Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £3.00 per meeting.

Judy Leggett - 07729121683
judyleggett@gmail.com

We are a Mindful Village



Mindful Towns and
Villages Project

Broadland
Health &
Wellbeing
Partnership



What is a Mindful Town or Village?

Please see link below:

<http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/support-wellbeing/mindful-towns-villages>

Mindful towns and villages create safe spaces where people can have open conversations about their wellbeing with locally trained individuals (wellbeing champions).

There are several wellbeing-champions in the Parish Council Team.

The remit of wellbeing-champions is to be available for low-level conversations and direct individuals to suitable support through the Broadland and South Norfolk Councils' Help Hub and partner organisations, as needed.

Please contact the Office on 01603 423880 or email assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk to arrange an introduction.

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May 2026

Mental Health Awareness Week – May 2026

Mental health influences how we think, feel, and behave. It affects how we handle stress, build relationships, and make decisions. Yet despite growing awareness, many people still struggle in silence due to stigma or lack of understanding. Mental Health Awareness Week aims to challenge these barriers by encouraging open conversations and promoting education around mental wellbeing.



Everybody needs a bit of extra support from time to time.

Getting help early can stop problems from getting worse.

The Help Hub is a partnership between organisations that support people in Broadland and South Norfolk. It can offer practical support, suggest community groups, and offer advice and guidance to get you back on track.

The Help Hub will be visiting Old Catton Lunch Club on 17 June 2026

Old Catton Parish Council



Join the Old Catton Lunch Club

First and third Wednesday each month,
subsidised cost £5.00, cash preferred, please pay on the day.
Limited spaces available, please confirm by the preceding Friday.

Doors open 11:45am

May 6th and 20th

June 3rd and 17th

July 1st and 15th

August 5th and 19th

September 2nd and 16th

October 7th and 21st

November 4th and 18th

December 2nd and 16th

St. Margaret's Church Hall, Blacksmith's Way, Old Catton

Want to know more or to book a space,
please contact us: by phone on 01603 423880
or email assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

Thanks to all those involved in the delivery of this project.



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



REPORTING A PROBLEM

Pot holes, drainage, roads signs, highway damage, traffic lights grass verges, etc —report to: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/39652/Report-a-highways-problem>



All updates are written by group representatives
 Our thanks to all who contributed to this edition

www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

LIVE BANDS • BEER TENTS  **FUNFAIR • FOOD VENDORS**

SOUNDS@LAVARE

Foo Fighterz Small Fakers

Skasouls **thomo** Thomo

@LAVARE PARK
 Buxton Road, Norwich, NR6 7GD
 TICKETS VIA TICKET SOURCE
<https://bit.ly/soundsatlavare>

Smalltown Vices NIGHT TRAIN

23rd May 2026

Family Music Event • Funfair Friday night and throughout Saturday only

Sponsorship Available

OLD CATTON PARISH MEETING

This is YOUR meeting!

Come along and:
 > Meet your Parish Councillors
 > Find out what's going on in your Parish
 > Receive an update from your local Community Groups
 > Ask questions

THURSDAY 28 MAY
7.00 PM


AT THE CHURCH HALL,
 BLACKSMITHS WAY, OLD CATTON
 NR6 7DT

Made with PosterMyWall.com

LITTER PICKERS

There is a stock of litter pickers and hi-vis vests available at the Recreation Ground for anyone wishing to borrow them, whether for Brownie or Scout badge activities or for personal use to help keep our community tidy.

For maximum impact, we kindly ask that you avoid litter picking in Catton Park, the Recreation Ground, and Lavare Park, as these areas are regularly maintained by the Parish Council team. Please telephone 01603 423880 to arrange equipment collection.




INFO

Old Catton Parish Council does not respond to queries received via social media channels.

To stay up to date, please visit our website or follow our Facebook page.

We do not post on other social media platforms. If you see something that may be helpful to others, please feel free to share it.

Grand Reopening - monitor our website for details

Tennis court resurfacing will be undertaken as part of the redevelopment works at the Recreation Ground.

Please visit our website to make a booking
www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/i-want-to/hire-a-tennis-court.html

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

 SCAN HERE FOR TICKET SALES

 Raising funds for the Clubhouse development

GRAND FIREWORKS Night

@LAVARE PARK
 Buxton Road, Norwich, NR6 7GD

THURSDAY 5TH NOV
5PM - 10PM

FIREWORKS AT 7:45
FUNFAIR • LIVE DJ BEFORE & AFTER LICENSED BAR • FOOD

TICKETS FROM TICKET SOURCE
<https://bit.ly/5zxxzAQ>

*TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

