

CATTON PARK TRUST

2020 marked an important year in the Park's history as it is a year that placed Catton Park firmly on the map. In a year that no one could have predicted the Park became a firm favourite as the exercise hub for the local community and those living in Norwich and the outskirts. Catton Park footfall was unprecedented with a significant increase in runners, cyclists, tree climbers, and more walkers and dogs than ever before. In addition, and when permitted, a wide range of exercise classes in the Park have also become a normal sight. It has been wonderful to see the Park so well used and we hope that it will continue long after lockdowns and Covid-19 restrictions cease.

Management of the open spaces and woodland has continued to a high standard under the watchful eye of our Warden, Matt Caley. You have probably seen him and Amy Henderson (Park Assistant) carrying out tree planting, woodland management, grass cutting, maintenance and extensive litter picking on a daily basis. Restrictions permitting they have been helped during the year by the City College and Youth Offender volunteers. We are also pleased to welcome two new volunteers to the team who are able to help Matt and Amy with larger projects. We look forward to welcoming all our volunteers back once restrictions permit.

We are proud to announce that Catton Park has once again been awarded the Green Flag Community Award for 2020/21. The Park has been a holder of this Award for four years and it demonstrates a national recognition of the outstanding quality provided at Catton Park. We are working hard to ensure that Catton Park maintains this prestigious Award for many years to come.

During 2020 the Park has received no income outside of Government Covid-19 grants and Natural England. This has had a significant impact on the available finances of the Trust. The Trust must now look for alternative funding. Moving out of lockdown and restrictions means that the Trust can consider fundraising activities, though these probably will not take place until much later in the year. Fundraising events do contribute towards the running costs of the Park but only if they are supported and attended by the community. We hope that the community will support and attend events as much as they have attended the Park over the last year.

The Trust are exploring other fundraising options. Donating to the Park is very easy, and all donations are greatly appreciated. You can donate to the Park via the following methods and we thank you in advance for supporting Catton Park :-

- We are part of the Broadland Community Lottery:
www.communityatheartlottery.com/good-causes
- We have a Just Giving page:
www.justgiving.com/cattonpark
- We are part of the Easy Fundraiser scheme:
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cattonpark/

The Trust takes this opportunity to thank all members of the Friends of Catton Park for their ongoing support.

We 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 are £3,879.00 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.

Finally, we say thank you to Andrew Buxton for his continued support of the Trust and Catton Park. As a founding Trustee of the Park he has been instrumental in the preservation of Catton Park and in supporting the wonderful Park that we have today. We are pleased to rename the educational building Buxton Lodge in honour of his and his family's contribution to the Park and to Old Catton.

Mr Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Chairman of the Catton Park Trust

AFC NORWICH

'After an extremely difficult year for us all, the 2020 - 2021 football season was in doubt but due to the hard work and eagerness of the NDSL (Norfolk & District Sunday League) and the management and players of AFC Norwich to safely play the game we love, it was able to go ahead in late September 2020 under strict covid-19 guidelines. Having then played up to Christmas everything then came to a standstill again as we all know but throughout those 3 months playing in unprecedented times and everything the Old Catton Parish Council had done for us to enable us to play at the Old Catton Recreation ground, what we achieved was way above our expectations. Only in our fifth season as a club and our first season being in the Premier Division, we currently sat in the top three when things were stopped so as a club we are moving in the right direction and doing great things with the look of a really good future. We really hope that we will be able to complete the season and hope that the Old Catton community who have turned up to every home game in their numbers in all weather giving us incredible support can also continue and we cannot thank you all enough for it

We can't wait to be back doing what we love to do and look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Thank You

Ben Revell
(owner of AFC Norwich)'

OLD CATTON CRICKET CLUB.

We all at the cricket club are looking forward to good times ahead, all being well. The government is giving the go-ahead for those engaged in 'Outside organised sports', and despite what a few people might say, we are indeed organised, and rearing to go.

We have always believed that cricket is a vital ingredient of community life, as has the Council, and in this modern world where football is king, we have felt it essential to keep our sport going.

Despite the very late start to the season last year, due to the pandemic which, of course like other facilities, hit our finances, we were pleased to purchase a substantial trolley, to enable the juniors in particular, to transport the heavy practice mat to its place on the field, among other things. We were also pleased to contribute to the cost of the set of posts and wiring used to protect the pitch when not in use, which the Council provided.

So, hopefully, it's back to the sanitising and social distancing involved in the present game of cricket, with our current band of players, and as usual, the hope of attracting new people, 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 in general - Giles Pickett, gtp38@hotmail.com

Greg Crisp, gregs111@sky.com

Juniors Sally Duncan, theduncans2010@hotmail.co.uk

Barry Prime, Chairman OCCC

OLD CATTON HORTICULTURAL CLUB

When the new year began we were back into lockdown once more, the days were short and the weather was wet, grey and cold, Spring seemed a long, long way off. It certainly was not gardening weather and even to go out for our permitted walk was like a major operation. The Horticultural Club continued to keep in touch with its 70 members with phone calls and monthly newsletters containing articles, puzzles and gardening tips for the month contributed by members and distributed either by email or hand delivery.

However, two months on and the days are longer and warmer and after the mid-February cold snap the bulbs exploded into colour. It is amazing how such delicate flowers like Snowdrops, crocuses, and hellebores can emerge unscathed from the snow and ice within days. With the encouraging signs that the virus incidence is decreasing, many people have had the jab and the weather is improving we hope that the 'road map' will stay on track and we are hoping that we can resume a few of our 'normal' activities later in the year.

Although Covid imposed an abrupt halt to our activities there have been some beneficial aspects. Many of our members like the rest of the population have become more proficient with technology and as well as being in contact by email they have accessed talks from Horticultural speakers across the UK and the wider world. As we are affiliated to the NNHS they have provided Zoom talks and even a 'social' event for our members. We have extended our current membership to January 2022 and we have had enquiries from people wishing to join. We hope to run a series of Mini Members Open Gardens as we did last year and we will provide a geranium for each of our members to 'grow on'. When we can meet 'in person' again, we hope to ensure that our first meeting, whether in or out, will be a social occasion.

Liz Brown (Secretary) tel: 01603 409905 or email: ochcsec@btinternet.com

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

In May, we celebrate the 100th birthday of the Royal British Legion!

After the First World War, Britain's economy plummeted, leaving 2 million people unemployed in 1921. Over 6 million men had served in the war. Of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled. On 15 May 1921 The British Legion was formed, bringing together four national organisations of ex-Servicemen that had established themselves to support those who had suffered as a result of service during the First World War.

Now, 100 years later, 2021 is also a reason for celebration in Old Catton, as our new committee is up and running. When I joined the Legion in 2017 we were the *Old Catton and Sprowston Branch*. In 2018 I was asked to be a point of contact for the Old Catton Branch which was by then without a committee and supported by the County. After last year's Poppy Trail we saw a swelling of our ranks, members came forward who wanted to get more involved, and now here we are - a fully-fledged branch of the Royal British Legion once again !

Lindsay Carruthers - Chair, Nathan Wride - Secretary, Steve Butcher - Treasurer, Maureen Blackman - Branch Community Support Rep, Mike Fox - committee, Neil Shiach - committee.

No 100th birthday should pass without a big celebration and we have been making Covid-safe plans to do so. The anniversary is on 15th May and there will be another walking trail around the village with stories of the services that the Legion provides to our forces families, some local to the village, others local to Norfolk and some further afield. We hope that it will give everyone a good idea of the Royal British Legion in action today, as well as an idea of how it began. The RBL 100th Birthday Trail will launch on the 8th May at 11 o'clock from Old Catton Rec. Joining us for the launch will be Carey's Coffee Box, so please do come along and have one of their famed hot chocs or coffees before you start, as you finish, or anywhere in between. The branch committee will be there with trail maps, and more information on the services we can offer in the village to our veteran and serving community, so please do come and say hello! If you can't make the 8th, don't worry - the Trail will be up for a fortnight, till the 22nd May, kindly sponsored again by Yvonne at Astley Estates.

You will also have heard the buzz about the plastic poppies. We were inspired by the village of Sutton in Ely (pictured) and will be creating a 100th birthday Poppy Garden in Austen Way. Pre-painted poppies - courtesy of Satys Air Livery - will be available through the schools for children to add decorated leaves and a birthday message which they can then place in the Poppy Garden.

We hope to see hundreds of poppies in the garden and that you will enjoy walking the Trail and visiting the garden over the birthday fortnight.

On a sad note, I would like to pay tribute to the former Chair of the Old Catton and Sprowston Branch, Val Hill, who sadly passed away lady month. She and her husband, Roy, gave many years of dedicated service to the Royal British Legion

serving many in this area, and in throughout the county. We send our condolences to Roy and the Hill family.

Now that we're out and about a bit more we hope you enjoy the Spring and Summer, stay safe and well, and that you get in touch if there's anything you think we can do to help you.

Lindsay - Chair

oldcatton.chairman@rbl.community

Nathan - Secretary

oldcatton.secretary@rbl.community

GIRLGUIDING CATTON DISTRICT

Even though all our units have been on zoom this term we have all had fun and games, whether that is baking (and accidentally dusting your laptop with flour), crafting (and making Harry Potter wands) or getting fit (with learning to surf or laughing yoga). We have had a number of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides achieve their section awards of Bronze, Silver and Gold, so well done!

A few of our units have shared what they have done this term.

1st Old Catton Rainbows have been looking at countries around the world far and nearby. From Australia to Wales. The Rainbows have been doing singing, dancing and crafts in their zoom meetings and earning badges.

We created our own pizzas, made our own playdough to shape into animals and mazes. We made some hats and lanterns. We looked at Girlguiding around the world for World thinking day.

Old Catton Rangers have been busy meeting virtually during the latest Lockdown. World Thinking Day is a celebration of ten million girls worldwide that has taken place on every 22 February since 1926. It is a day for all Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world. To celebrate Thinking Day 2021, Old Catton Rangers met virtually with other Guides and Girl Scouts for a Goose Game race across Europe - done virtually of course! They joined with over 50 other participants from Ireland, Ealing, Derby, Malaysia, Switzerland, Canada and the Lake District to race across a game board set around Europe, virtually visiting a number of Guide and Scout centres on the way and completing activities as they went. They visited Rustavi in Georgia, the Drive Centre in Portugal, Kanderstag in Switzerland, BP Park in Italy, Nocrich Scout Centre in Romania and ended at Our Chalet (the first WAGGGS world centre) in Switzerland. Everyone enjoyed a really fun evening meeting Guides from around the world, and even got a virtual tour of Our Chalet at the end. They are looking forward to visiting in the future, once they're able to do so again. In the meantime, the Rangers are looking forward to coming back together for face to face meetings as soon as they're able to do so after the Easter break.

As the restrictions are eased we are hoping the units will be able to offer a mixture of zoom, outdoor and indoor sessions and it will be great to hear of all the adventures!

Catherine Clarke, Catton District Commissioner

Spaces available in units <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Volunteers always welcomed <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-your-interest/>

OLD CATTON EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

One good thing about this pandemic is that (if you're not working full time with children to home school) it gives you time to look back ...and realise that some things have been OK!

As 2020 drew to a close, members of OCEWI had some fun with festive photographs! Members sportingly agreed to have their 'mugshots' compiled into a Christmas 'video card' with messages for all. We spent our village hall Christmas party funds on goodie bags; these were delivered to all members in a safe and sanitised way by 'Committee Elves' as part of daily exercise.

However, after Christmas, there is always January ...

Many of us feel that the last lockdown has been the hardest, with so many chilly mornings and dark evenings to endure. Although we kept in touch through phone calls, WhatsApp chats, safe doorstep visits and paired socially distanced walks, we were also all giving thanks for central heating, modern media, key workers, delivery drivers ... and a steady rate of vaccinations!

President Lorna introduced a second weekly Zoom: members can see and hear each other for coffee and a chat on both Monday and Friday afternoons now – these help to lift our collective mood. We have a bit of fun with our prize draw: a temporary substitute for the raffles held at monthly meetings in normal times – Lorna is armed and dangerous with a bingo calling machine! So far, it has behaved itself on Zoom, although some of the balls **have** tried to make a getaway across her conservatory floor ...

We're maintaining our monthly newsletters, which include challenges, competitions and some very poor jokes! At the time of writing, we look forward to being able to start our Strolls again with our friends from Sprowston WI, in groups/bubbles of six for safety.

Members continue to be really supportive of each other – we look forward to renewing and building on these deeper friendships when we can meet again.

Best wishes from everyone at the WI for a summer of hope and sunshine!

Shelagh Maple - OCWI Committee

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 communities, courses and activities available. If you are interested in joining Old Catton WI and/or our Strollers group, please contact Lorna Brigden on 07794 714621 or me: shelaghr7@gmail.com

44th Norwich (1st Old Catton) Scout Group #Skills For Life

During these long months of lockdown we switched our focus to practical skills at home via online meetings. Our full on programme offered fun discovery from experiments to ironing or handling the pressure of cooking a meal with limited ingredients. While most Scouts (10-14 years old) are already masters of cooking over the open fire, they can now also present amazing meals or show incredible flexibility responding to Ready Steady Cook style creations when presented with a surprise bag of ingredients.

Taking Scouting into the home has often included siblings, the ice cream making by Beavers (6-8 years old) proved very popular! Family events have included "Household Olympics" and Bingo where each home was pitted against each other. Being crowned champion at paper basketball becomes very important! When the plan was a bit more specialist, we supplied the materials so that everyone could join the fun and when Cubs practiced their emergency first aid, we needed extra bodies so they could practice their bandages for broken bones or sprains - some nice acting too...

Most of the time, Cubs (8-10 years olds) have been busy helping around the home, learning how to change late bulbs, ironing, sewing and cleaning; all life skills that every generation values as they grow older! Talking of the older generation, Beaver and Cubs started writing to the residents at Redmayne View care home, a lovely link with the community. Their reply revealed a shared love of outside games and that skipping was a favourite for many when they were young.

As well as the superb cooking, the Scouts' have been developing their skills as presenters, creating and then running their own quizzes. Their creativity, subject expertise and humour has been a joy!

We did manage a short period outside before the November lockdown, with the Scouts taking to climbing walls, abseiling, zip wires and archery. Beaver and Cubs enjoyed hikes and games at Catton Park, our thanks to them for making it happen. If all goes well, we are now planning to move to face to face meetings and will continue to rigorously adhere to our Covid risk assessment so everyone continues to stay safe.

The Scouting vision is "Skills for Life" and lockdown has not hindered our development of practical skills. We've also seen their character skills of flexibility, being kind and being resilient grow too. One way of demonstrating their success is by counting the number of badges awarded, as the count is at nearly 300, they've been busy too. The highlight is the Young Leader award that was completed in February, this young person completed all his training and then put into action all the skills learnt before he became 18, a proud moment for all of us.

There is plenty of help needed to keep the group running; whether as part of the exec or helping out with the meetings. We look forward to welcoming you!

FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK

The Friends offer many congratulations to the Parish Council and Catton Park Trust for their hard work to ensure that the park is available to local residents for many years to come. It is fantastic for our village to have its very own historic park. Thank you to those who have already responded to our article in the parish council summer newsletter and have joined the Friends. Membership of the Friends is still open and is an easy way of supporting the Park for just the cost of a few coffees! We are a group of local people who are interested in the park and wish to support it in some way. If you would like to join us there is a membership application form on the Friends page on the website at www.cattonpark.com or email friends@cattonpark.com. Thank you so much – your support is much appreciated.

Like many local groups, the Friends of Catton Park have not been able to host events over the past twelve months. Despite this we have organised three park themed competitions – a photo and a poetry competition last autumn with the theme “Capturing the Essence of Catton Park” and a decorated stones competition for Easter. Many congratulations to our winners and thanks to all who entered, especially the children who turned up with their decorated stones, eggs and potatoes. We found it difficult to choose our favourites! We really missed our Easter Egg Hunt which could not take place for the second year – we hope it will be back for 2022.

At present we do not have any events planned but once the situation about the types of activities we can safely offer becomes clearer we will once again host some events. We will post information on the Facebook page, the website, the parish church newsletter and posters around the village. We also advertise upcoming events in our newsletters to our members.

The committee is sad to report that we have lost a long standing committee member of the Friends in Barry Palmer. Barry particularly enjoyed helping at the children’s Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Crafts, and ordering our fish and chips from the chip shop for the Quiz nights. He will be missed by us all.

If you are interested in joining the committee we are looking for new members with fresh ideas about the types of events we could host in future. We are a friendly bunch and in normal times we meet about every two months to plan our events.

We hope that you have had the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful park and woodland over the past few months. Each year the Friends donate money raised from the membership subscriptions and events to Catton Park Trust, who are responsible for running the park. In normal times the money donated is for additional extras for the Park – such as contributing towards the shrubs planted last year near Buxton Lodge and some wildflowers which will be planted later this spring. The Friends are considering whether for this year only a donation towards some of the additional maintenance needed because so many more people have been visiting the park is more appropriate. We are so pleased that many of our members have continued to support the park during these challenging times.

For further information about the Friends please contact Gill Renouf on 01603 484073 or email friends@cattonpark.com

OLD CATTON AND SPROWSTON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

SYEP continue to work hard over the pandemic to keep young people engaged and have met weekly with young people outside on Old Catton Recreation Ground, in line with the National Youth Agencies Guidelines and in a Covid Safe way. We secured funds through the Norfolk Community Foundation Covid Response Grant which enabled us to purchase outdoor equipment which includes a 6-metre by 3-metre pop-up tent, outdoor heating and lighting and giant bean bags. We have also continued to deliver a focused support group on a Wednesday evening at St Mary's and Margaret's Church in Sprowston for some of the more vulnerable young people.

As things start to open in line with the Government's Road Map, we can deliver more youth provision and we are now starting to go back to delivering projects 6 nights week. From 13th April our youth group in Sprowston can reopen and we have several new young people starting from both Sprowston and Old Catton, so it is a great time to start as we are starting from scratch. The group is for young people in Year 7 and up, runs from 6pm until 9pm at St Cuthbert's Church Annexe and is free. From 19th April we are starting our gardening project again which runs from 6pm until 9pm and works really well for young people who struggle with anxiety, their confidence and self-esteem or their mental health. It's also a great project for young people who are interested in gardening and the environment. Wednesday and Friday evenings we will be out delivering community outreach and engaging with young people who are harder to reach and may be seen by the community as causing anti-social behaviour. Areas highlighted to us have been Mountbatten Drive and Catton Park. If there are any other areas the community would like us to target, please get in touch.

We continue to have a presence at Old Catton Recreation Ground on a Thursday evening delivering outdoor youth provision.

Through community outreach last year, we engaged with several older young people, those aged between 18 and 25, and in direct response to this we have now set up targeted youth provision for this age range and will be out delivering community outreach on a Saturday evening and eventually be setting up a targeted drop in. We continue to deliver 1:1 support in Sprowston High School and our football club SYEP FC has now kicked off, which includes 2 youth teams and a young adult team.

Over the next year we will be piloting several new upskilling courses for young people in all our age ranges including a bike building project, a pathway course into horticulture in partnership with the RHS and much more. We will also be setting up several new clubs which includes a bike club, a running club and a sports club.

If anything we deliver may be of interest for your child or you would like to volunteer for the project in any way then please do get in touch my number is 07823 321480 and my email address is clare.lincoln@syep.co.uk.