



## Spring Newsletter 2025



Friends of Catton Park  
present



### THE SHERINGHAM SHANTYMEN

**SATURDAY 19 JULY 2025  
@ 6 pm**

**CATTON PARK PICNIC AREA,  
OAK LANE, NR6 7DB**

Tickets £15 + booking fee, children under 5 free

Gates open 5 pm - FREE PARKING in the Park

Bring chairs/blankets \* BBQ and drinks on sale

Sorry no dogs, glass or picnics

Presented by the Friends of Catton Park, raising  
money for the Park and celebrating  
our 20th anniversary

For more information email [friends@cattonpark.com](mailto:friends@cattonpark.com)



Recreation  
Ground opening  
hours will be  
9am-9pm from  
12th May until  
28th July.  
Current closing  
times are  
displayed on the  
main gates

## OLD CATTON GARAGE SALE

**SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST  
10AM-3PM**

Registration  
Closing Date:  
31st July 2025



TO REGISTER YOUR ADDRESS AND BE INCLUDED ON THE MAP

Email: [assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk)

Maps (£1 each) will be available from 9.45am on the day at the Pavilion,  
Recreation Ground, Church St, NR6 7DS



Don't forget to keep recycling  
your glass and paper in  
the recycling banks at the  
Maids Head PH, Woodman  
PH, Morrisons and the Old  
Rectory Crostwick.

## 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 22ND MAY  
7.00 PM**

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



Ad-hoc bowls is  
available at the  
Recreation  
Ground.  
£5 p/person p/hr

NO PARKING AT EVENT - FOOT ONLY BUSES 21/22 X54/55

**Saturday  
21st June  
11-4**

**Old Catton RBL**

**COMMUNITY  
CELEBRATION  
DAY**

**90 Years**

**ARCHERY**

**CRAFT STALLS**

**WIN!!**

**RAF Air Defence  
Radar Museum  
Wentworth**

**Gray & Sons  
FUNFAIR**

**EAT & DRINK**

OLD'S BAR,  
OCJFC BBQ  
SWASH NOSH  
FOR YOUR FRIES ONLY  
SLUSHIES AND LUSHIES  
M&Ms SWEET TREATS  
ROSS'S ICE CREAM

**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

Tiger Moth flight  
Thursford Christmas Spectacular  
Theatre tickets  
Bewilderwood tickets and more!

There will be filming and Photography of the event



You can book a  
tennis court via  
[https://  
www.lta.org.uk/  
play/book-a-  
tennis-court/](https://www.lta.org.uk/play/book-a-tennis-court/)

Fee is £5 p/hr

**OLD CATTON JUNIOR  
FOOTBALL CLUB**

**FIREWORKS**

**@LAVARE PARK**

Buxton Road, Norwich, NR6 7GD

**WEDNESDAY 5TH NOV**

**5PM - 10PM**

**FIREWORKS AT 7:30**

**LICENSED BAR & FUNFAIR**

**Single Ticket £5 / Family Tickets £15**  
(1 adult, 3 children OR 2 adults, 2 children)

Ticket sale details to follow

Raising funds for the  
clubhouse development

**CIM**

## Annual Report 1st April 2023—31st March 2024

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

As I write this, the sun is shining, and it finally feels like spring is here — with summer just around the corner. It's wonderful to look around our Parish and see all the fantastic amenities we're lucky to have. At a time when green spaces are increasingly under threat from development, it's a real joy to watch the grass, wildflowers, and woodlands of Catton Park, the Deer Park, the Recreation Ground, Woodham Leas, and Lavaré Park burst back into life. I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a beautiful and thriving community.

This year, the Parish Council has continued to champion our brilliant community groups and organisations — the beating heart of Old Catton. From the WI and the Church to the RBL, Scouts and Guides, football clubs, youth groups, arts, crafts, and sports — we are truly blessed with a huge variety of activities for all ages. A huge thank you goes to all the volunteers who give their time so generously. If you missed it, our special Winter Newsletter lists all the fantastic groups you can get involved with. It is still available on our website: [https://www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/images/newsletters/Winter\\_2024.pdf](https://www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/images/newsletters/Winter_2024.pdf).

With the new playing season underway, we're delighted to welcome back our sports groups to the Recreation Ground — Thoroughbreds Netball, Old Catton Cricket Club, and our three bowls clubs: Wensum, Catton, and Old Catton. Thinking about taking up a new sport (or getting back into an old one)? You'll find all the details on how to join these clubs in our Newsletters and on our website. Plus, don't forget — our tennis courts at the Recreation Ground are available for hire! Book your court online here: <https://www.lta.org.uk/play/book-a-tennis-court/>

We are very pleased to welcome our newest Member of the Parish Council, Mark Winhall. We are already reaping the benefits of Mark's knowledge and positive contributions to the Parish. The Council still has x3 vacancies — if you are passionate about your Parish and want to make a difference in your local community and enjoying working as part of a team please consider joining the Parish Council. More information is available on our website: <https://www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/i-want-to/become-a-councillor.html>. Alternatively come along to one of our monthly meetings held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground (next meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June).

We are also delighted to introduce x3 new members of staff to our team. Vanessa Middleton has joined us as Administration Officer and has already become an indispensable member of the team. You have probably seen Tabitha Blomfield, our new Catton Park Assistant, getting her hands dirty and making an impact around the Park. Last but not least we welcome Graham Gill as our new Groundsman — be sure to say hello when you spot him out and about. Each of them brings a wealth of skills and experience and we are confident they will further enhance our already successful team. We look forward to the contributions they will make as we continue to grow and thrive.

We recently said farewell and thank you to our Groundsman, Neil Shiach who left us at the end of June. We also extend our thanks and best wishes to Jean Vincent, who originally joined us for just two weeks to cover admin duties — and stayed for an amazing 15 months! We are truly grateful for the contributions Neil and Jean have made to the Parish and we wish them every health and happiness for the future.

We are thrilled to announce that planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of facilities at Lavaré Park. The brand-new Clubhouse will deliver long overdue upgrades for Old Catton Junior Football Club, including modern changing rooms, first aid and referee rooms, a kitchen, and improved toilet facilities. A spacious meeting room — with capacity for around 150 people — will also provide the much needed community hub residents have been calling for in the north of the Parish. We are committed to building a Clubhouse that meets carbon literacy standards, using eco-friendly materials, and incorporating solar panels, heat source pumps, and recycled air systems. Our consultants are now refining the approved plans ready for the project to go out to tender — and we can't wait to break ground later this year! Meanwhile, planning permission for the Pavilion redevelopment at the Recreation Ground is still pending, and we hope to see it approved in the coming weeks. Regarding the development of land near Morrisons and Lavaré Park (part of the Beeston Park project), the Parish Council has not yet received any updates. We know these developments will have a significant impact on Old Catton, particularly on housing and local services like schools and surgeries. Please rest assured: the Council will keep all residents informed and will invite everyone to a Public Consultation as soon as updates are available.

The Council is delighted to continue supporting the vibrant youth in our community! Whether it's grassroots football at Lavaré Park with Old Catton Junior Football Club, youth netball with Thoroughbreds Netball, or Dynamos Cricket with Old Catton Cricket Club both held at the Recreation Ground — there's something for every young person to

*Continued .....*

### **Your Parish Councillors:**

Mr B Sabberton-Coe (Chairman)  
01603 483976  
62 Garrick Green, NR6 7AN

Mr G Tingle, 07901 525052  
36 Mousehold Lane, NR6 8HA

Mr J Arnott, 01603 462376  
210 St Faiths Road, NR6 7AG

Mr M Callam, 01603 343508  
138 Moore Avenue, NR6 7LQ

Mr T Cooke, 07565 161159  
5 Parkside Drive, NR6 7DP

Mr G Crouch, 01603 404520  
202 Spixworth Road, NR6 7EQ

Mr B Leggett, 01603 429986  
30 Garrick Green, NR6 7AL

Mr M Vincent, 01603 485460  
4 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND

Miss P Wilkin, 01603 781050  
Church Barn, NR13 6QT

Mr M Winhall, 07783 946296



## Old Catton Parish Council Annual Report Continued....

get excited about. We're also incredibly proud to back the amazing work of Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP), offering a wide range of programs in Old Catton, including a Youth Group, LGBTQ+ Group, and youth football teams. The future's bright, and we're here to help make it happen!

Catton Park continues to thrive as a beloved community space, with footfall continuing to increase as more people discover its beauty and heritage. Our ongoing commitment to preserving the Park's historic charm remains strong as we continue to carefully manage the Park within the legacy of Repton's design. We are very pleased to work together with the Friends of Catton Park in the creation of the Friends Legacy Project which has seen the planting of disease-resistant elm trees, generously donated by John Innes Centre, and we continue to prioritise sustainable practices and support biodiversity. To learn more about the Park, stay updated and discover all the ways Catton Park continues to grow as a vibrant and sustainable community asset visit the website: [www.cattonpark.com](http://www.cattonpark.com).

Looking ahead to 2025/26, the Council is gearing up for the exciting planning work needed to extend Old Catton Cemetery. This expansion will include Parish Council land to the west of the current site, creating much-needed space for more burial and cremation plots. While this project will take time — with thorough ground water surveys needed to ensure suitability — we're optimistic that the new area will be ready within the next couple of years. Meanwhile, planning for improvements to the Deer Park will kick off. Plans include new fencing, tree planting, and information board(s) on the horizon (funding towards the boards is made possible by funds donated from the DPAG). But first, we'll be diving into the review of the Old Catton Neighbourhood Plan. A dedicated Steering Group of local volunteers has already formed, and they'll be working to improve and update the existing Plan. Keep an eye out for consultation documents coming to your door in the next few months — your input on this review is absolutely vital! All of these projects come with significant funding needs, and we're actively exploring various funding sources to bring them to life.

Finally, are you aware of the Norfolk and Suffolk Devolution Plan? The Government's Devolution Plan is coming to Norfolk and Suffolk, aiming to bring more power and funding to local communities. This means a directly elected mayor overseeing vital areas like transport, housing, and economic growth. The plan also proposes replacing the current two-tier local government system (this being County and District Councils) with unitary authorities, saving millions. Parish Councils will not be affected. Broadland District Council are already running a public consultation to hear your views — so now's your chance to have your say. These changes could be in place by 2026, shaping our future for years to come. Don't miss out — get involved and help shape the direction of our region! To view the consultation go to: <https://www.future-east.co.uk/>.

We close this report by shining a well-deserved spotlight on the outstanding work of our grounds staff, led by Head Groundsman Ross and Park Warden Matt. These dedicated individuals work tirelessly, in all conditions, to maintain the highest standards across our Parish facilities. While public recognition is rare, their commitment is truly exceptional. From the Recreation Ground and Catton Park to the Cemetery, Churchyard, War Memorial, Lavaré Park, Deer Park, Woodham Leas, Allotments and the Village Pond — the staff's hard work touches every corner of our community. Thanks to their efforts, Old Catton remains a stunning, well-kept place to live. A huge personal thank you to Ross, Matt, Chris for their incredible dedication over the past year and to Tabby, and Graham for their enthusiasm over the past few months.

All that remains is to personally thank my fellow Councillors (both old and new) and the Council staff for their unwavering support, expert advice, and tireless hard work. I am excited for what we have already achieved and what we can achieve together in the coming year for the Parish and the Council. I would like to give a special thanks to Sarah for her exceptional help and support over the past year — her commitment continues to be invaluable to us all.

Bradley Sabberton-Coe  
Chairman

### Message from PC Darryl Robinson

I would like to introduce myself as the new Beat Manager for Sprowston and Old Catton. I have just transferred from the Response role after 11 years of working the Broadland area.



I am keen to hear from anyone who has concerns to raise in regard to the local community. I want to ensure Old Catton remains a friendly, safe place to live and work all year round. To do this, I work in partnership with local organisations such as councils, businesses, and schools to tackle any issues that arise, take part in regular community events, and work on the priorities for the area, voted on by residents.

One of the priorities often nominated is road safety. Several measures, including increased speed checks, road safety operations and bicycle safety campaigns have been completed in the last year to tackle the issue, and I will continue to raise awareness and enforce safety for all road users.

Another priority regularly adopted is anti-social behaviour. There can sometimes be increased reports over the warmer months, but aim to keep this to a minimum with Park Walk Talks and high-visibility patrols of residential areas and open spaces. Please feel free to come and say hello if you see me out and about!

I encourage anyone who wants to discuss a local problem to come along to community meetings (held every three months), street surgeries, or by emailing me at [SNTSprowston@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:SNTSprowston@norfolk.police.uk). If you wish to make an official report about an incident, please use our website [www.norfolk.police.uk](http://www.norfolk.police.uk) or call 101. Always call 999 for an emergency or crime in progress.



## OLD CATTON HORTICULTURAL CLUB

The Old Catton Horticultural Club had another very successful year last year and maintained a high membership. We held eight monthly talks with a variety of speakers all of which were well attended with an average audience of about 55 members and visitors. We also held two Shows, a Summer one last August and a Spring Show this April both of which were well attended by non-members coming to view the exhibits.



We also organised a day coach trip to Bury St Edmunds, visiting the Abbey Gardens in the morning and Fuller's Mill Gardens in the afternoon and also had 2 afternoon visits to local gardens. Our annual Plant and Cake Sale in May raised over £900 which will ensure we can cover the increasing costs of speakers, hall hire, etc. In December we held a Christmas Social with a buffet and a performance from the Hellesdon Community Choir. We produce a monthly newsletter which is delivered by email or in person to ensure that all members are kept informed about the club's activities.



A group of our members and others from the local community have continued to maintain the Community Orchard on Oakfield Gardens, near Swansgate. In September we held a bulb planting day and over 850 bulbs were planted by 24 people ranging from 11 months to 89 years old! The results have been very pleasing to see this Spring. The fruit trees are all making good growth and should produce more fruit this autumn. The hedging is gradually becoming more established. An interpretation board and an additional bench should soon enhance the area through a Pride in Place grant supported by the Parish Council, the BDC and Councillor, Karen Vincent. An apple and pear pruning workshop was held in January and we hope to hold another for the Cherries and plums in the Summer.

This year we have over 84 members so far and have a full programme of talks which are held on the first Friday of most months to which visitors are always welcome at a cost of £2.50. We will be holding another Plant and Cake Sale at The Village Hall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10am -12.30pm which is open to all. On June 18<sup>th</sup> having a day Coach Trip to Cambridge Botanic Gardens jointly with Hellesdon Horticultural Society and the Social sub-committee is organising an afternoon tea for members in August.

None of this could happen without the help of an active and committed committee and several willing additional members.

*Liz Brown, Secretary - email: [ochcsec@btinternet.com](mailto:ochcsec@btinternet.com)*

### **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](mailto:clerk@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk)**

**Or**

**[assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk)**

### **IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?**

The Parish Council remains vigilant in making sure that all the amenities within Old Catton are in good working order but sometimes we do miss things. Please can you help us by reporting any maintenance issues, however small, to the Clerk's Office by email: [assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk) or on 01603 423880.

Maybe it's a streetlight that is not working, or is on 24 hours a day, graffiti on a bus shelter or play equipment vandalised. Or perhaps it is a street name that is broken or missing. Whatever it is, please do get in touch and don't just assume that we already know about it or that your neighbours have reported it onto us.



## 44TH NORWICH (1ST OLD CATTON) SCOUT GROUP



Wow, who can believe it's been a year since we've last been in touch!

This last year saw our Group celebrate its 50th anniversary. We had an incredible afternoon with members old and new to commemorate this huge achievement. We had the pleasure of welcoming back some of our founding members, and their families; it was great to catch up with everyone. We are extremely lucky to have been going for so long and this is thanks to all the young people & volunteers past and present. Here's to the next 10 years!

Since we were last in touch, our Beaver Colonies have had an incredible sleepover at the Sea Life Centre at Great Yarmouth where our Beavers were able to sleep under and next to the sea life creatures. This was a unique experience for our Beavers and one of our young people were raving about for weeks. The Beavers have also taken their annual trip to the pantomime (oh no they didn't, oh yes they did!), where a brave Beaver managed to get on stage and host a singalong. Throughout their weekly sessions, they have been explorers, animal friends, scientists and cooks. They've been kind and helpful with our annual Mother's Day Tea Parties and are very excited to host our Father's Day Water Fights this term.

Moving up to our Cub Packs; the biggest highlight of the year was the Cubs taking over Pleasurewood Hills Theme Park. This was an amazingly fun day, with several of our Cubs conquering their fears as well as making friends with Cubs from across Norfolk. Our Cubs love getting out into the community and spreading their kindness; this year saw them completing a number of litter picks to help keep the village tidy, as well as taking their annual visit to Redmayne View for songs, jokes and Christmas joy. Our Cubs have been as busy as our Beavers and have become Gardeners, Cyclists and VR Drone Pilots. Future plans see them developing their traditional Scouting skills such as knots, map-reading and pioneering.

Now for our Scout Troop, another step up here as our Scouts competed in a Norwich-wide shooting competition where we had multiple medal winners including 1<sup>st</sup> place in "Rifle Prone Position" and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Overall Team Score. Sadly, no big events for our Scouts this year, but that hasn't stopped them having some brilliant experiences. They have taken part in a "Vicious Viking" activity day which saw our Scouts hone their fire-lighting, woodburning, and bread making skills. On a weekly basis, they have gained circus skills, improved their strategy skills with Warhammer sessions, and piqued their Geocaching interest. Their biggest challenge was HAVING to eat marshmallows, chocolate biscuits and chocolate bananas when taking part in our regular campfire sessions!

At group level, we have proudly represented the village and surrounding areas at local events, from Remembrance Day to school fetes, and celebrated the festive period in style with a Scouting Festive Carol Service. Looking forward, we'll be hosting a "junk sale" fundraising event, and showing ourselves off at other community events too, so please come and say hi.

A number of volunteers have had to step away from the group this year which has led to the remaining volunteers taking on additional duties. We have done this because of how much enjoyment we get out of the activities too. We get extremely proud watching our young people develop their skills and overcome the challenges we set. Not only this, but our behind-the-scenes team are in a similar position; they help manage the group and are amazingly helpful in keeping the group running while our "up-front" volunteers host the amazing programmes. We welcome offers of help and support in any capacity, so please do reach out.

As a reminder, our hall is available for hire for parties or regular group classes/meetings etc, so, please do get in touch with us if we can be of assistance.

Contact our Group Scout Leader, Kieran, on [gsl@oldcattonscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@oldcattonscouts.org.uk) if anything we've mentioned here is of interest to you!

### **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 p/year to maintain (the emptying dog bins costs over £5,000 p/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](http://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](http://www.easyfundraising.co.uk). We also have JustGiving and GoFundMe pages ([www.justgiving.com/cattonpark](http://www.justgiving.com/cattonpark)) ([www.gofundme.com/f/raise-funds-towards-running-costs-of-catton-park](http://www.gofundme.com/f/raise-funds-towards-running-costs-of-catton-park)).



### OLD CATTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

It has been another busy and successful season both on and off the pitch for our local junior football club with 26 teams from U7s to U18s competing in leagues plus the U6 training group and of course the Wildcats Girls sessions. As we approach the conclusion of the league and county cups, a number of our teams have reached the finals and have already recorded a league cup win for the U16 Pumas and the U13 Pumas were runners up in their final. More importantly perhaps, we have seen around 360 children play and develop their skills with our national winter game, make friends and enjoy themselves.

Our annual small sided tournament will once again be held at Lavare Park on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June and all are welcome to join in the fun with licenced bar, BBQ, inflatables and of course some excellent football to watch. Old Catton Juniors are also planning to participate in the Royal British Legion event at the Recreation Ground and the Friends of Catton Park's Shantymen's evening in July. Also, possibly in a first for the village, we are hosting a Fireworks Evening in November at Lavare Park to raise funds for the new pavilion being built at there.

As always, I would like to offer my thanks, on behalf of Old Catton JFC, for the support we receive from Old Catton Parish Council. We at the football club are all harding-working volunteers who simply want the best facilities for local children and other local people and I'm please to say that this vision is shared by the Parish Council. If you wish to volunteer or you have a child who may wish to play for the club please contact [chairman@oldcattonjfc.co.uk](mailto:chairman@oldcattonjfc.co.uk)

Kevin Brown, Chairman

### ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

Following a successful church spring fair at which it was lovely to see a range of different stalls and people from the community, the church moved through the remainder of Lent to then remember and celebrate the Easter story. It was great to be able to go into the local schools and talk about Easter as well as having Old Catton Junor School in church for their Easter services.



On Easter Sunday we sadly said goodbye to Revd. Sally who has been our Assistant Curate, training with us to be a Vicar, for several years. Revd. Sally's training has come to an end, and she is off to the Aylsham Ministry Team to become Vicar of the Bure Valley Churches.

The Easter story reminds us of fresh starts and renewed chances very much like spring with its new growth and it is good to see the church continue to grow within the community of Old Catton.

We have our various activities such as knit and natter meeting in church the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm, then we have the Women's Group in the church hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 8pm and on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

The hall continues to be a place of gathering for various uniformed groups and other regular activities and is also there for one off events, such as birthday parties and quizzes. We are thankful for the help of the Parish Council in carrying out works to the hall in upgrading the lights to more environmentally friendly LEDs and updating the toilet facilities.

The church continues to publish 'The Magazine' which includes information not just about the church but also on various other groups in Old Catton and the work of the parish council, local businesses and contact numbers that may be useful to know. The monthly 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.

Like many organisations the church struggles with finances as we rely solely on donations and fees for weddings and funerals, so it is a constant battle to keep the church going so that it is 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 prayer.

We hope that the church will remain a place of peace and support for the people of Old Catton and a part of the life of the community.

Rev David Hagan-Palmer



## MOTHERS UNION EVENING BRANCH

We have 4 million members worldwide and are part of the community in 84 countries around the world.

Our funds go towards providing holidays for disadvantaged families; buying bedding for refugees being resettled in Norfolk; providing shelter Christmas presents for children whose parent is staying at Wayland Prison; sending donations abroad to help families start businesses which enable them to pay for education for their children; donating money towards literacy classes and numerous other projects. For further information go to our website: [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

Our branch meets once a month except August and December in St Margaret's Church Hall, Blacksmiths Way, Old Catton on the last Monday of the month except when it is a Bank Holiday and then it is the following Monday, at 7.45pm.

Our programme is varied including a poetry evening, outing with optional evening meal, speakers and in November our Christmas meal out.

For further information please contact Elizabeth Fletcher on 07380 960743 or email: [e.a.fletcher6@gmail.com](mailto:e.a.fletcher6@gmail.com)

You are welcome to come along as a guest with a suggested donation of £2 which includes refreshments.

## Old Catton Walking Group

This group, which my wife and I started in 1999, continues to thrive. It is an informal group with some people walking fairly regularly and others perhaps walking only once or twice a year. All residents of Old Catton are welcome.

Walks are organised once a month - 8 walks are morning walks with an optional lunch, 2 walks are evening walks and 2 walks are on Sunday afternoons. Numbers walking varies but are normally in the range 14 to 18. The walks are usually about 4 miles long, sometimes with a shorter option.

Dates for the rest of the year are available from me, and details of forthcoming walks are detailed in the monthly Old Catton News magazine.

Roger Campling. [reandjrcampling@gmail.com](mailto:reandjrcampling@gmail.com) 01603 426585

## DATE OF NEXT SNAP MEETING

### SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th June 2025

at 6pm

at the Diamond Centre, Sprowston.

## SEWELL MEADOW CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC PLANNING APPLICATION

Discussions continue between District Council and the developer.

Application has not gone to Planning Committee at this time.

We will continue to update when we have further news—keep an eye on our website and social media page.

## OLD CATTON SPRING CLEAN

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Big Broadland Litter Pick in April 2025. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting our community.

If you missed this and would like to organise your own litter pick, litter pickers, gloves and rubbish bags are available from the Council Office. Please telephone 01603 423880 to arrange equipment collection.

## WHAT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL DO?

Old Catton Parish Council serves a population of 6,241 people. There are currently 10 Councillors (all volunteers) who represent the entire Parish. The services provided by the Parish Council includes the upkeep of the Recreation Ground, maintenance of the cemetery and closed churchyard, War Memorial, village sign, Catton Park, Deer Park, green spaces, allotments, street lighting, bus shelters, grass verges.

Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6.30pm in the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings to hear about the Council's plans and activities and there is an opportunity for members of the public to speak. A copy of the monthly Agenda is posted on our website and on the village noticeboards.

### County Conference Recognition

The annual Norfolk County Conference was held at County Hall in Norwich on Saturday 1st February. We were very pleased to have the Legion's new Director General, Mark Atkinson, in attendance. He gave an encouraging and very positive address.

Another standout and inspirational speaker was Andrew Taylor, the Armed Forces Commissioner for Norfolk. He was blown up in Afghanistan and flown home for treatment at Headley Court. On returning to normal life, he suffered major setbacks and ultimately became homeless. With the help and support of the Legion, he was rehoused and was able to overcome his challenges. Thanks to his advice, we have been able to help a local veteran into secure, safe and comfortable housing.

We were again very pleased to receive the Louis Lee Memorial Star award for the progress of a small branch over 5 years. In 2018 we had 20 members and that number has now grown to 60. Pictured below are the Old Catton Chair, Lindsay Carruthers and Treasurer, Steve Butcher, receiving the award from Mark Atkinson.



### County Youth Standard Bearer Competition

On the 19th of October last year, five nervous looking cadets turned up to Dereham Cadet Hall to compete for the honour of being the Principal County Youth Standard Bearer for Norfolk. 1 Royal Marine Cadet, 1 Sea Cadet (both from TS Lord Nelson - Norwich Sea Cadets) and 3 Army Cadets. Marine Cadet Oscar Selway took first place, with his fellow cadet from TS Lord Nelson Ewan Corless, a member of the Old Catton Branch, a close runner-up. At the RBL County Conference, Oscar and Ewan received their pennants for their achievements in the competition. Both cadets are facing a busy 2025 as standard bearers for the RBL and are very proud to do so.

Well done Ewan! We are honoured to have you represent our branch and will watch your progress very closely. Veterans and those serving are entitled to have an Armed Forces Standard Bearer and RBL standard bearers at their funeral. Our county Standards can muster several times in a month to attend funerals, including our own Old Catton Standard Bearer, Mark Taylor.



### Quiz Night

Our latest quiz night was held on Saturday 22nd March at the church hall in Old Catton. We had an excellent attendance and once again Maureen Blackman, the quiz organiser and Sam Carruthers, the quiz master did a marvellous job.

There were some excellent raffle prizes on offer and grand sum of £451.00 was raised. Some very good feedback was received and you will be pleased to hear that another event will be held later in the year. Well done to the winning team Crop Rotation who just pipped Universally Challenged to the post in the tie breaker!

### 90th Birthday Celebration

We are so excited to be celebrating our 90th birthday this year and have a fantastic day of entertainment planned for the entire family. Please put this date in your diary as this is an event not to be missed and we would love to see everyone there.

As you can see from the poster, great efforts have been made to ensure that there will be great activities and entertainment for everyone to enjoy. We will witness a spectacular parade of standards accompanied by a pipe band. Children will have the opportunity to learn how to parade with a Standard and miraculously, Winston Churchill has even deigned to grace us with his presence! We have some fantastic raffle prizes to be won including a flight in a Tiger Moth, tickets to the Thursford Christmas spectacular and Bewilderwood, a Jarrolds hamper, signed Norwich City football and much more. With food trucks, ice creams, a bar and crafts and community stalls and even a calm corner there will be something for everyone! We hope to see you there!

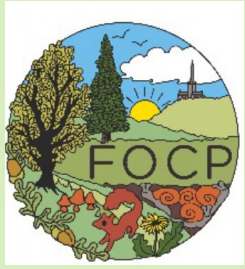
The 80th anniversary of VE Day is Thursday 8th May. We feel extremely honoured that our Chair, Lindsay Carruthers, has been invited to attend the service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey as the nation comes together to mark this special anniversary. The RBL will also be holding a commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum on this date with a private tea party for WWII veterans and their families. At 9am we will gather at our war memorial for VE Day Proclamation as the VE Day 80 flags are raised, and at 12noon, around the country, pipers will play a unique tune especially written for the occasion entitled 'Celebratum'. at 6.30pm, Cathedrals and Churches will ring out in united celebration throughout the nation, and at 9.30pm over one thousand of beacons and hundreds of Lamp Lights of Peace will shine throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, with the flames from them both, representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war, honouring the many sacrifices that secured our freedom.



And as always, if you would like to join us, we would LOVE to have you in our Old Catton RBL family!

Lindsay Carruthers, Chairman, Old Catton Branch





## FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK

2025 marks 20 years since the Friends were formally established as a group of people who love Catton Park and wish to support it. To mark this occasion the Friends are hosting a special event in the park and with the agreement of Catton Park Trust have created a legacy planting project in the park near the picnic area.

On Saturday 19 July the Sheringham Shantymen will be performing in the Park. This wonderful evening starts at 6pm, with gates open from 5 pm. The Shantymen will perform two sets, with a break in the middle. The Old Catton Junior Football Club will be providing a barbecue, the bar will be supplied by Wonky Donkey. Please bring a blanket or chairs to sit on and wear appropriate clothing – the concert will go ahead whatever the weather. Please do not bring your dogs, glass or picnics to the event. There will be free parking available in the Park.

Tickets are priced at £15 per person plus booking fee and are available online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-catton-park](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-catton-park) or in person from the Parish Council Offices during opening hours. There is no charge for children under 5 but they will still need a ticket.

May we put out a plea – we really need to know now whether any of you would be willing to volunteer to help make the evening a success. We are looking for volunteers to help with car parking (before the show) and for others to help with checking tickets or showing people to the seating areas. Please contact us at [friends@cattonpark.com](mailto:friends@cattonpark.com) for more information or if you can help – many thanks.



Many of you may already know that the elms of Britain are under threat from Dutch Elm Disease, a devastating fungal disease spread by elm bark beetles. The Friends are delighted to be involved in a project which is aiming to produce some disease resistant trees. Over 50 elm whips (young trees) have been planted in an area near the picnic area along with some native trees. We hope that some of these elm trees will mature and be disease resistant. As part of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary legacy project the Friends have provided some more mature trees which have been planted in the north east of the park.



Other events planned for 2025 include our AGM on 28 May, where we will also have a talk by Will Stewart, Warden at Mousehold Heath. All are welcome to attend (although only Friends may vote at the AGM.) On 11 October we will host another Quiz and Chilli evening – our most recent quiz was fully booked – and the annual community free Lantern Parade on 24 October.

During the past twelve months we have held a number of events, including a successful Easter Egg Hunt, bat walks, Open Gardens, a moth event and quiz nights. We aim to host a variety of events to encourage people of all ages to visit our beautiful park or to learn more about the flora and fauna of the park or to raise funds.

Information about the Friends, our events and how to join us can be found at [www.cattonpark.com](http://www.cattonpark.com). Friends also receive newsletters three or four times a year with information about our events with offers and early bookings. We are also looking for people who would be interested in joining the committee. We are a friendly group, meeting four or five times a year to plan events. Please contact us if you might be interested.

Other ways to support the Park are to purchase packs of greetings cards. These packs comprise 6 cards featuring photographs taken in the Park by local residents. They are just £6 for a pack and are available from the Parish Council Offices in Church Street and at our events.

If you would like to sign up for any event or join the Friends please do get in touch with us – email us at [friends@cattonpark.com](mailto:friends@cattonpark.com) or telephone Gill, our secretary, on 01603 484073. Membership rates start at just £8 for a year's membership.

Brigit Chisholm, Chairman

### REPORTING A PROBLEM

Pot holes, drainage, roads signs, highway damage, traffic lights grass verges, etc –report to: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysproblem](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/highwaysproblem)



### 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](http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/report-it)





## SPROWSTON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

This year has been another great year in terms of engagement and development and we continue providing numerous projects which are delivered six days a week. Projects are delivered in Old Catton and Sprowston.

### Thursday Youth Drop in Old Catton

Thursday youth group at the Recreation Ground continues to be a popular place for young people. We run the session as a drop in group so we welcome new young people to attend. This past Thursday Adam and the staff organised an Easter Egg Hunt which had the young people searching the Rec for plastic eggs to swap for chocolate bunny lollipops which was a lot of fun.

### BLAH – LGBTQ+ youth group

Old Catton Blah is a project that has been running for over three years, and it's great that we can continue to support the young people who identify as LGBTQ+ in the local area. We do many activities, including film nights, board game nights, and having interesting conversations about LGBTQ+ topics, including what it's like living as an LGBTQ+ person, health, culture, and history.

### Football

The boy's SYEP FC teams have grown over the course of last season which has been great to see. The newly developing SYEP U12's have shown great spirit and perseverance throughout the season. The team has consisted of players who are new to football and others who have been looking for extra playing time. We are on the look out for new players to join this team for the coming 2025/26 season.

SYEP U14's have had a good season and have trained consistently as a squad throughout. They are always keen to learn, support their teammates and help out with coaching at times.

SYEP U16's have been part of some very competitive matches over the course of the season, with some fun trips to Sheringham Lighthouse U16's as a team on the mini bus. Their fate in the league comes down to the result of a league match, so hopefully they will get the league win they deserve.

The possibility of teams being part of the Inspiration League next season is exciting for all those involved in SYEP FC.

Many players this season have played up age groups. This is encouraged to help integrate the teams and develop players within SYEP. All the teams are continuing to training each week in preparation for the Norfolk Christian Youth Football League Finals Day on Saturday 10th May.

The girls SYEP team formed only in February, so we're still focused on training and skills practice in the main. However we do play a match every session. The girls continue to grow in confidence. And we've seen a good level of commitment and turnout from young girls in the area. We are still looking for players, so if you are a young person or know a young person that may be interested in joining our girls football team please contact [clare.lincoln@syep.co.uk](mailto:clare.lincoln@syep.co.uk) for



## OLD CATTON SOCIETY

We trust residents, roadworks permitting, have been able to view the new Information Board situated on Spixworth Road opposite the war memorial. This board, a companion to the one in Church Street, gives historical details of that part of Spixworth Road. The board was funded by contributions in memory of Mrs Sylvia Burrows, a grant from Broadland District Council arranged by Cllr Karen Vincent and a resident. The design was by the Old Catton Society.

Also, news is that the Society's archives have now been catalogued. The society has over 1,000 photographs, over 400 documents which are resident's memories, relating to the wars, newspaper cuttings and events in Old Catton.

The archives can be accessed by arrangement. So, if you are researching your family or your house do get in touch via our website [www.oldcattonsociety.org.uk](http://www.oldcattonsociety.org.uk) or by phone 07729121683.

The society meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm when we have a speaker (on a variety of subjects) and refreshments. All welcome.

[www.oldcattonsociety.org.uk](http://www.oldcattonsociety.org.uk)

Barry Leggett—Chairman



## OLD CATTON EVENING 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.

Below are some of the things we do. (Hardly everyone does all of them ... although President Lorna has energy levels to which the rest of us aspire!)

- Meet 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 in the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground;
- Host *Get Comfortable Online* sessions to help members improve skills and confidence in all things digital;
- Run a strollers group, craft group, book club 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, and many more.

Are you ever free on Tuesday mornings? If so, do pop in and see us for a warm welcome! You will meet a friendly bunch of regular guests who have become friends since the group started in 2023. Warm Welcome is open to all, not just women.

Are you interested in joining the WI? If so, please contact our Secretary Reenie Greenwood on [weeniereenie@gmail.com](mailto:weeniereenie@gmail.com)

Shelagh Maple, OCEWI member



### Have A Go At Bowling

One of the gems of the Recreation Ground is a fine bowling green.

If you fancy having a go with a free taster session, why not pop along on Saturday mornings in June. Bowls will be provided – just come along. You don't need any special clothing but it would be appreciated if you could wear flattish footwear – ribbed soles don't do any favours for the green's championship playing surface.

Come along – on Saturday, June 7; Saturday, June 14 and Saturday, June 28 between 10am and 12 noon. Please note, the ground is booked for another event on June 21.

The three clubs – Catton Bowls, Wensum Bowls and Old Catton Bowls- will give you a warm welcome. And if you've watched championship bowls at Potter's on the television in January, this is for real.

**For more information** – contact Michael Pollitt, of Catton Bowls on (01603 486997).

Players are looking forward to the outdoor season with enthusiasm. In addition, the Recreation Ground also hosts a semi-final match of a major league in July.

**If you'd like to find out more about outdoor bowls, please contact Michael Pollitt or text 07852 718342.**

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.

More information is available on the Parish Council noticeboards and website

### OLD CATTON BOWLS CLUB

Thinking of trying a new hobby /pastime in '25?

Why not join us this Spring?

We plan to organise coaching for beginners.

**A local friendly club, primarily for residents — Old Catton Bowls Club** meets on Thursday afternoons at 2.00pm.

Membership Fee is just £25.

We have club bowls available for newcomers to the game.

All are welcome.

Please email [oldcattonbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:oldcattonbowlsclub@gmail.com) for further information

## GRANT FUNDING



Are you a member of a charitable organisation or voluntary group? Does your group need extra funding? If so, Old Catton Parish Council may be able to help.

The Parish Council has the power to financially assist non-profit making organisations within Old Catton. It is not difficult to apply, and you could receive the funding to boost your organisation's needs. For further information regarding grants, please contact the Clerk's Office.

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

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OLD CATTON PARISH COUNCIL?



Old Catton Parish Council serves a population of 6,100 people (Census 2011). There are x13 Councillors who represent the entire Parish.

The Parish Council is responsible for setting the annual precept and these funds are used to provide Parish services, including the Recreation Ground, the Cemetery, Lavaré Park, bus stops, street lighting, Catton Park, Deer Park, the War Memorial and the maintenance of the closed churchyard, green space at Woodham Leas, various bus shelters, x8 noticeboards around the Parish and the Village Sign. Additionally, the Council undertakes the highway verge cutting via an agency agreement with Norfolk County Council.

A Councillor is a member of the Council and is normally elected for a term of x4 years. People of any political or religious persuasion are eligible to become a Councillor, although their personal views should not extend into their Parish Council work. Next election will take place in May 2027 and all Parish Councillors will go through an election process. If there are any vacancies following election individuals can be co-opted onto the Council instead.

Becoming a Parish Councillor is a rewarding and valued form of public service.

All Councillors contribute to the work of the Parish Council by:

- Having a say about the things they care about;
- Putting forward ideas for better services;
- Responding to the needs and views of parishioners;
- Seeking the best outcome to local issues;
- Getting involved in decision making;
- Helping to make Old Catton a better place to live;

The Parish Council normally meet on the second Monday of the month, meetings commence at 6.30pm at The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Church Street. Old Catton. Councillors are expected to attend meetings on a regular basis. These are public meetings and perspective councillors are welcome to attend.

You can read about the forthcoming election process on the Electoral Commission website [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

For more information and an application form please see our website: [www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/images/pdfs\\_foi/2025/Co-option\\_Councillor-application-pack-January\\_2025.pdf](http://www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/images/pdfs_foi/2025/Co-option_Councillor-application-pack-January_2025.pdf).

