

- APM 23/24 /1 **PRESENT** - 16 members of the public, SCllr Munt and PC Jess Pettitt.
- APM 23/24 /2 **IN ATTENDANCE** - the Clerk to the Council.
- APM 23/24 /3 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** - As Cllr Barnett (Chairman of the Parish Council) was held up in traffic and Cllr Salter (Vice Chairman of the Parish Council) had tendered his apologies the Clerk asked if anyone would take the chair. L Pople volunteered and as there were no other expressions of interest she was elected for the period until Cllr Barnett arrived and took the chair.
- APM 23/24 /4 **APOLOGIES** for absence were received and approved from D Salter. G Barnett apologised that he would be a little late.
- APM 23/24 /5 **MINUTES** of the previous Parish Meeting dated 10th May 2022 were confirmed and signed.
- APM 23/24 /6 **REPORTS** were given as follows and will be attached to the minutes as appendices. After each report there was an opportunity for questions. The order of reports was changed to suit those present.
- a. Catcott Parish Council accounts - the Clerk had provided copies of the accounts for all present. There were no queries.
 - b. Neighbourhood Watch - David Thomas.
 - c. Catcott Village Association - Janet Holden
 - d. Playing Field Committee - Liz Baker (read by Lorna Pople)
 - e. Somerset Council - SCllr Harry Munt
 - f. **PRESENT & CHAIRMAN** - Cllr Barnett arrived at the start of SCllr Munt's report and took the chair.
 - g. Catcott Parish Council - Chairman's report - Geoff Barnett
 - h. Police - PC Pettitt reported that there is very little crime in the village and answered questions from members of the public.
 - i. JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity - Catherine Andrews (read by the Clerk)
 - j. Catcott Educational Charity - Sheila Hamilton (read by the Clerk)
 - k. Mary Godfrey Charity - Peter Mackay (read by Geoff Barnett)
 - l. St Peter's Church - Martin Melia (read by the Clerk)
 - m. The Village Hall at Edington - report from Sam Gilbert was received too late to be read to the meeting but is attached to the minutes.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Chairman

Date

2023 Neighbourhood Watch Report

There is little to report again this year since Catcott goes along essentially peacefully!

Throughout the year there have been a small number of opportunist incidents with garden sheds being broken into and tools stolen, and easily moved outside flower containers. *Removed* .

Residents remain alert to unusual activities, and we would like to reiterate that if something appears Suspicious, please ring 101 and report it to the Police or ring Crime Stoppers and report it anonymously. If it appears that a crime is in the process of being committed, ring 999 immediately. By all means inform concerns to Catcott Neighbourhood Watch by using the email link on the eWatch messages but if you think it's important, please inform the Police. None of us know whether that small detail will complete the jigsaw for them and solve the puzzle that being investigated.

eWatch continues to be a successful means of communicating to the 180 residents receiving the messages in Catcott. Approximately 900 Polden Village residents are getting the eWatch messages, with 9 Villages being part of the Polden Villages Neighbourhood Group.

As new folks move into Catcott we endeavour to introduce them to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and to eWatch which is the primary means of contact.

Please continue to look out for each other and keep our delightful Somerset village happy and safe.

Thank you.

Report for the Catcott Parish Council Annual Meeting .

May 2023.

from the CVA

2022 Last year we held **our AGM** In February followed in March by a belated community lunch held in King William Inne, and the Village clean up Also Our first Jumble Trail was in April These events were reported in last years report.

In **June** we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee with a Street party in Steel Lane, where villages set up their tables etc. As Sedgemoor District Council had donated a grant to us we were able close the road, and put on a cake competition as well as and have various games with prizes.. The Annual Scarecrows competition was judged and the results with and the Spring Garden were given out, with Gerry Wheeler wining the Spring Garden cup. He had also put on display a couple of his Vintage cars. So lovely to see them. Unfortunately, the event was cut short by the rain.

In **July** we took part in Catcott's school "**Cattstock**" a very enjoyable event , providing games that we had from the Jubilee event.

In **October** we put on a very successful **3 course Diner Dance** with live music.. The Spin the wheel game this year was renamed Top Hats and Coronets , an auction was held as well as the usual raffle

November, The month of **Carnival**. We were asked if anyone would like to volunteer to help out 5 members of the committee did and were stewards on the main stands, giving them road side views of the parade.. This year will be **November 4th**

December Unfortunately the **Carols Round The Tree** had to be moved into the school hall due to the wet weather. But this did not deter many villagers coming out to sing alone with the Burtle Silver Band, Mulled Wine and Mince mince were served at the end .

2023 . Events that we have already held,

The Village Annual lunch down at the Crown , with 32 villages enjoying a carvery lunch.

The **AGM** which was held in February when a new committee was formed. Carol Melia had decided to leave, due to work and family commitments. We welcomed Andrew Tompson and David Strickland on to the committee. The

rest of the committee were all willing to stand again, Then at the first meeting Janet was re-elected as the Chair

The **Annual Clean** up took place in March with 33 Villagers turning out, Not as many bags of rubbish were left in the pound to be picked up by SDC. Refreshments were provide in Steel Lane

The **Jumble Trail** was held on Saturday 29th April, not as many stalls as last year, but still a worthwhile event.

Coronation Big Lunch.

To celebrate the Kings Coronation members of the CVA and Village Hall Edington Committees organised Big Lunch Activities for the residents of Edington and Catcott, which was held at the village hall on the 7 May 2023 between 12 and 4. Donations were received from the Edington Parish Council, Village Hall and the CVA to provide funding for the event. People were asked to bring their own lunch with teas coffee and squash provided free with the bar open for other refreshments. Children's games were organised such as Egg and Spoon, Sack and Space Hopper races (some adults insisted on their own races) all the children taking part received gifts. Prizes for the Best Dressed Table and the Cake Competition were awarded. Music was provided throughout the festivities and the weather held good and there was even sunshine towards the end. Approximately 100 residents attended and a jolly good time was had by all.

Forth coming events booked or planned

A. Come Dine with Us (formerly know a\s the Safari Supper) Is Booked for Saturday 24th June, Letters and forms will be delivered, soon with the next Newsletter

Catcott Open Gardens Booked for Sunday 9th July. More information to be circulated, anyone who wishes to Open can apply to myself or David Strickland

Dinner Dance booked for Saturday 28th October, book now, tickets available when printed.

Carols round the Tree. Booked Monday 18th December.

Chairmans report

From Catcott Playing field for Catcott Parish Council AGM 2023

We have had a better year this year as we have managed to at long last get the new roundabout installed with the help of Catcott parish council applying for RLT2 funds etc and donations from the CVA and private donations received, for this we thank you all very much.

We are hoping to replace the bark area under the equipment with a more long-lasting low maintenance rubber matting. We have been successful in getting a grant from a local company so this looks like we will be able to achieve this. We may be looking for willing volunteers to help us do this. We will post when the working party will be held and if anybody can come along and help us we would be very grateful.

We held our annual Christmas Fayre again this year and would like to thank our stall holders, helpers on the day and all that came along and supported this event which was very successful.

We have some fundraising events in mind to hold this year so look out for posters around the village.

Our AGM will be held soon, we would welcome any new members or anybody who would like to come along and meet us, again we will advertise the date etc

Lastly a big thank you to the committee members for all their support and help and also the members of the village etc with their help the children can continue to enjoy the playarea.

Lorna

Pp

Liz Baker

Chairperson

MAY 2023

Deadline approaches for two alternative energy payment schemes

Householders in Somerset could be due for government payments to help towards the costs of heating their homes, under two separate schemes.

The first scheme is for those who heat their homes with an alternative fuel such as wood pellets, LPG or oil, as many do in rural and some urban areas. Those householders could be due a £200 one-off payment from the government, but they must apply by 31 May.

The payment is aimed at people who do not use electricity or mains gas for domestic heating and who have not received a payment from their electricity supplier. The payment isn't means tested. Householders must supply an invoice or receipts to show that they have purchased at least £200 of alternative fuels since June 2022.

The second scheme is for households that have not received a £400 discount on their energy bills from an electricity supplier (in six instalments from Oct 2022 to March 2023). They may be entitled to a £400 one-off payment from the government.

The scheme is aimed at those who don't pay directly to an electricity company for the energy they use in their home, for example residents of care homes, park home sites and people living above commercial property that does not have a separate meter for the domestic part. The payment isn't means tested.

To find out more about both schemes and to make an application, search 'Apply for energy bill support if you do not get it automatically' into the GOV.UK webpage search bar.

For anyone who may qualify for this support but does not have access to the internet, they can make an application to the government by telephone on 0808 175 3287, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

All applications must be made to the government and not to the council. There is more information here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/benefits-and-payments/alternative-energy-bills-support-scheme/>

Somerset primary school admission figures for 2022/23

Nearly 99% of Somerset's youngest children were offered a primary school place at one of their top three choices, Somerset Council's latest school admission figures show. Overall, 98.94% of the 5,182 applicants were offered a place at one of their top three choices, with 94.54% receiving their first choice.

Of the 5,182 primary school applications received this year:

1st preferences met – 94.54 % (4,899 offers)

2nd preferences met – 3.88% (201 offers)

3rd preferences met – 0.52% (27 offers)

Last year 5,296 applications for primary school places were received. Of those, 98.62% of applicants received one of their top three preferences, with 93.4% receiving their first primary school preference.

Bus services in Somerset are part of Taunton's 'Bus It' campaign

Figures show more people in Somerset are choosing to 'Bus It' following the introduction of lower fares and evening buses as part of Somerset Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Since the introduction of a £1 fare for a single journey in Taunton, along with evening bus services on some routes, both funded by BSIP money, as well as a sustained 'Bus It' campaign by Somerset Council and the Somerset Bus Partnership, passenger numbers have increased by nearly 25 per cent on First Bus/Buses of Somerset services in Taunton area.

Similarly, following the introduction of the £2 fare for a single journey in Somerset, funded by the Government's Help for Homes scheme, passenger numbers have increased by around 14 per cent across the county. The Government has also officially announced its intention to continue the £2 fare across the country until 30 June.

Somerset Council and the Somerset Bus Partnership launched the 'Bus It' campaign last summer to try and encourage more people to 'Bus It'. You can find out more about it here, along with the various initiatives: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/bus-it-you-know-it-makes-sense/>

Somerset recycling growth

Somerset's green-minded residents have helped the county climb into the top 30 councils for recycling.

In Defra's recently published league tables, Somerset's 2021-2022 recycling rate of 56.2% ranks it 28 out of 228 local authorities – putting it in the top 15%.

In 2020-21 Somerset ranked 59 out of 228, with a recycling rate of 52.4%.

And, with the full impact of Recycle More's expanded collections yet to be felt, Somerset Council is confident that the 2022-23 figures will see it climb even further.

The Council is committed to a greener, more sustainable county working hard to help homeowners recycle more and waste less.

In 2021-22, almost 150,000 tonnes of waste was recycled or reused, saving around 133,000 tonnes of carbon – the equivalent of taking more than 51,000 cars off the road for a year.

Of that, 97.2% was recycled into new products and package in the UK. Of the 5,771 tonnes of plastics collected, 99.4% were reprocessed in the UK.

Somerset's hard-working crews make more than 350,000 collections a week. For more information about what happens to the recycling they collect, check the Somerset Recycling Tracker on the Somerset Council website [somerset.gov.uk/waste](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste).

Sign up for the latest climate news

Somerset Council is asking residents to sign-up for its new climate newsletter.

The new Somerset Council cross-county monthly newsletter was launched near the end of April, and you can sign-up to receive it on the Somerset Council website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/climate-and-ecological-emergency/newsletter-sign-up/>.

Sent on the last Friday of every month, it will be full of news, project updates, and inspirational ideas about the work going on in the county in response to the Climate Emergency, along with information and tips to help us all live better, waste less and reduce our environmental impact. If we all do our bit and love where we live, we can keep Somerset clean, green and attractive.

Making Somerset a greener, more sustainable place is one of the Council's top priorities, working with the Somerset Climate Network and other organisations, networks and individuals keen to make a difference.

Greener homes protect (and) reduce energy bills

A ground-breaking project to help Somerset homes become more energy efficient has won crucial funding.

Somerset Climate Action Network (SomersetCAN) in collaboration with Somerset Council and Frome, Glastonbury, and Bruton Town Councils, have successfully bid for a £50,000 grant to set up a not-for-profit service promoting and supporting 'retrofitting'.

Retrofitting means making changes to an existing home that help reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions, making the homes more comfortable to live in.

Backed by the grant from MCS Charitable Foundation, Retrofit Somerset aims to speed up retrofitting delivery across the county by:

- Bringing together existing climate groups, Parish Councils, not-for-profit organisations, and others to develop a workable model for delivering retrofit across the county.
- Enhancing Retrofit Somerset as a one-stop website that helps to inform and connect homeowners and community groups with local retrofit contractors.
- Accelerating the widespread adoption of low-carbon technologies like heat pumps and PV panels.
- Helping groups of homeowners to work together to achieve practical solutions, including grouping together to get discounts on retrofit works.

Retrofit Somerset will have its own dedicated project manager, as well as local advocates in communities trained to engage locally to raise awareness of the benefits of retrofit for homeowners to start their retrofit journey.

In its first year, the project aims to create an investable business plan to attract further funding to help continue essential work to decarbonise Somerset homes.

For more information about Retrofit Somerset, including retrofit stories from Somerset residents and a directory of retrofitting suppliers and contractors, visit retrofitsomerset.info

£250 "Golden Hello" for new childminders in Somerset

Somerset Council is offering a "Golden Hello" grant worth £250 to those who would like to be a childminder. The £250 can be used to help with training and set up costs. Childminding is a rewarding occupation for anyone who likes working with children.

The post is ideal for new parents who wish to spend more time fitting work around their own children. It can also be a useful first step into other childcare and education roles, and may also suit people leaving teaching or other education support roles, but who still want to work with children. Deciding your own working hours and charges means the role can be flexible.

The Council offers guidance and training to newly registered childminders and supports them through Ofsted registration and beyond.

If you are looking for a change, would like to work from home and have a passion for supporting children to learn and grow through exciting play opportunities, why not consider childminding?

To find out more about becoming a childminder, and for an information pack please call 0300 123 2224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/register

How a small Somerset town grew its care and education workforce and brought in a cool £1m in unclaimed benefits

A small Somerset town has brought in more than £1.4m in unclaimed benefits and seen its community care workforce expand from just 3 to 35 since its homegrown care scheme was established in 2018.

Wiveliscombe - or 'Wivey' as it's known to locals - is a small town in Somerset which responded to the crisis in care by creating a 'connector' scheme signposting people who need help to self-employed carers.

These carers are known as 'Micro-providers', help local residents with a range of activities, from personal care such as help with staying clean, ensuring meals are provided and medication is taken, as well as providing company and conversation.

Wivey Cares is the brainchild of David Patterson, a retired social worker who founded the scheme as a way of providing a very local solution to the crisis in care.

Mr Patterson said: "Wivey is a rural town, and the conventional model of care at home just doesn't work here for this reason. We believed that there must be people who lived locally who could meet the need for care, which would support the work of government agencies, reducing the cost of services provided and helping people live independently in their homes for longer.

"As a result, we now have more than 35 carers who can access meaningful self-employment, live locally, and offer really personalised support. To date we have managed and helped more than 300 people fill in forms and claim their Attendance Allowance. This is financial support the government offers which can help people with extra costs if they have a disability where they need someone to help look after them. At any one time we believe we are supporting between 120 and 140 clients to stay in their own homes, keeping them close to friends and family.

"This has resulted in nearly £1.4m of previously unclaimed benefits being received by Wivey residents, creating jobs, and stimulating our local economy."

People who are interested in setting up their own local care scheme can contact communityenterprise@somerset.gov.uk for more information.

BT handed heavy fine for roadworks violation

Nearly £15k of fines were handed to BT for roadworks offences in Frome. The telecommunications firm was found guilty of two offences which included failing to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

Somerset Council is responsible for managing the road network and prosecuted BT earlier this year as part of its commitment to minimising disruption and keeping the public safe.

The case, heard at Taunton Magistrates on Thursday 16 March, related to the following:

On Friday 21 October 2022, in contravention of S65 of NRSWA 1991 by failing to install traffic management to ensure the safety of pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities and the travelling public affected by the works. BT was fined £8,000 for this offence.

In addition, BT carried out the works, at Butts Hill, Frome without a valid or deemed permit contrary to Regulation 19, The Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007. BT was fined £500 for this offence. The fines against BT totalled £8,500, with costs of £4,319.86 and a surcharge of £2,000 awarded against them. A combined total of £14,819.86.

In passing the sentence, the court gave full credit to BT for guilty pleas entered at the earliest opportunity and accepted in mitigation that BT took the following steps: it had issued guidance for its sub-contractors to take account of and to adhere to when conducting street works; and that it has since increased its training of operatives.

For more information and news about Somerset Council's Waste Services visit somerset.gov.uk/waste and follow @somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter.

Soft plastic recycling collections rolled out across county

A small-scale pilot of the collection of plastic bags and wrapping for recycling will soon be starting in Somerset – for invitees only. Following the success of expanded Recycle More collections, Somerset Council successfully bid to be part of a national 'FlexCollect' trial of kerbside collection of these soft plastics. The trial collections will be available to around 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome, starting near the end of May.

Those able to participate will receive information in the post shortly. No other householders, in Frome or elsewhere in the county, can participate or request to take part.

The pilot collections will pick-up a wide range of plastic bags and wrapping, including carrier bags, bread bags, confectionary wrappers, crisp packets, food wrapping and cling film. They will be part of the usual weekly recycling collections, to be put out for collection in plastic sacks provided to participating households.

The costs of the pilot collections are funded nationally. The only costs to the council are time and resources. Depending on how the trials progress, it is expected that they will be expanded to more Somerset homes next year.

For more information and news about Somerset Council's Waste Services visit somerset.gov.uk/waste and follow @somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter.

Somerset Youth Parliament engages schools to sign up to new mental health app for students

A new mental health app for young people has been launched in Somerset. The free Tellmi app is now available for all local 11-18 year olds, and gives young people the tools to manage their own mental health and support others.

Commissioned by NHS Somerset, Tellmi is the only fully pre-moderated, dedicated, peer support app which is considered safe for children aged 11+. Posts are approved by human moderators within an average of 30 minutes, and in-house counsellors intervene to support when needed. Local young people who download the app will have 365-day access to support, where they can anonymously discuss their feelings in a safe environment.

Data is showing the app to be improving mental health outcomes for young people across the county already, with 83% of users reporting feeling less isolated, 45% who self-harm saying they had stopped or reduced self-harming, and 1 in 3 young people who felt suicidal experiencing fewer suicidal thoughts as a result of using the app.

Working with the Youth Parliament, Young Somerset, Somerset Council and CAMHS (Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services), the project aims to support young people on waiting lists, but also anyone who might benefit from further support.

So far, Tellmi has been promoted in eight schools and colleges across Somerset, but members of Somerset Youth Parliament are calling for more schools to sign up, as 75% of children and young people with mental health issues don't get the treatment they need.

The app can be downloaded at Google Play or the App Store. To find out more about Tellmi, visit www.tellmi.help

GET INVOLVED

Help make Somerset more accessible for Disabled people

A year-long project to make Somerset more accessible for Disabled people was launched on 1 April 2023.

'Accessible Somerset' is an ambitious project which will ask Disabled people how their life could be improved in various areas. The project is seeking volunteers to share their views and is asking for individuals and organisations to get involved by contacting Disability.Inc@wecil.org.uk.

'Accessible Somerset' will begin by working with local Disabled people and organisations to help map the areas of need across Somerset. This will help to identify the key areas of focus for the project.

To deliver this project, Somerset Council has teamed up with WECIL Ltd - a Disabled People's Organisation who offer a range of services which support independent living. WECIL have been working with both public and private sector organisations since 2016, supporting senior management teams, HR professionals and Equality Diversity and Inclusion officers to create accessible, inclusive environments.

If you would like to be involved in the project, please contact Kinny Chinangwa or Alison Browning at Disability.Inc@wecil.org.uk.

City break escape is new bonus lottery prize

Somerset West Lottery is taking part in an initiative that could secure a city break for the lucky winner. It is the new, national bolt-on prize - the third prize initiative to launch this year.

Everyone who signs up to buy one or more lottery tickets from 2 - 27 May 2023 will be in with the chance to win a European city break: seeing the architecture and nightlife of Barcelona, sampling the art and food of Florence, soaking up the culture in Paris - or simply unwinding and seeing the sights. The prize is courtesy of the external lottery management company Gatherwell.

All tickets bought in the qualifying period will automatically be entered into the bonus prize draw as well as being in with a chance to win up to £25,000 in the weekly lottery run by Somerset Council. There were seven cash prize winners and 32 winners overall in the last draw on 22 April.

The Somerset West Lottery offers registered good causes the opportunity to raise income for their organisation by selling tickets to the public.

It gives 50p from every £1 ticket sold to local registered good causes with 10p from every ticket sale going into a community grant fund for which local good causes can apply.

If you know of a good cause wishing to raise funds or would like to buy a ticket contact the Somerset West Lottery on 0300 30 20 666; support@somersetwestlottery.co.uk or visit www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk

(1)

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

WELCOME TO CATCOTT PARISH MEETING FOR 2023.

I CAN'T BELIEVE ANOTHER YEAR HAS COME AND GONE SINCE THE LAST PARISH MEETING.

OVER THE LAST YEAR PLANNING HAS FIGURED IN OUR MEETINGS ON A REGULAR BASIS

SOME WE HAVE OBJECTED TOO ONLY FOR SEDERHOOR TO PASS WHICH IS QUITE NORMAL.

AN APPLICATION FOR 5 HOUSES WAS TO BE MADE AT OLD SCHOOL LANE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE PARISH COUNCIL AND OWNERS THIS WAS REDUCED TO 4 WE STILL AWAIT A DECISION ON THAT FROM SEDERHOOR.

OF COURSE THE BIG ISSUE REGARDING PLANNING IS THE MAJOR FARM ~~THE~~ SITE NO APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE YET.

HOWEVER THE DEVELOPERS GAVE A PUBLIC UPDATE WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY ALMOST 100 PEOPLE GIVING THEM THE CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS.

WE UNDERSTAND THEY WILL BE BACK IN JUNE AND WILL KEEP EVERYONE POSTED AS BEFORE.

PROBLEMS WITH ROADS ESPECIALLY PET HOURS TRAFFIC BEING REPORTED AND PASSED TO HIGHWAYS BUT IT IS ^{AS} USUALLY A SLOW PROCESS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS PROBLEMS IN LITTLE LANE WHICH IS

(2)
MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR USERS OF THE LAKE I CAN ASSURE YOU ALL PROBLEMS WE HEAR OF OR SEE WE DO OUR BEST TO GET IMPROVEMENT BUT HAVE TO RELY ON THE COUNCIL WHO CAN LET US DOWN.

FLOODING ISSUES SEEM TO HAVE IMPROVED THOUGH WE STILL HAVE PROBLEMS NEAR THE OLD POST OFFICE PLUS ONE OR TWO OTHER PLACES.

OVER THE LAST YEAR WE HAVE HELPED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CATCOTT BY HELPING WITH THE COST OF THE ~~NEW~~ NEW ROUND A BOUT AT THE PLAY AREA WHICH SEEMS TO BE USED BY MANY CHILDREN.

WE ALSO HAVE TAKEN OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE THAS TRAK LIGHTS FROM THE CVA AS THE OLD ONES WERE WORN OUT.

TO ENSURE SAFETY WE PUT AN OUTSIDE WEATHER PROOF POINT OUTSIDE OF HOUSE WITH SAFTY MEASURES

A GOOD SET OF LIGHTS WERE PURCHASED WHICH WERE ENJOYED BY ALL. WE ALSO PAID FOR THE ELECTRIC AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, RELASING THE CVA OF THE COST.

PROJECTS SUCH AS THESE TWO SEEM THE RIGHT THING FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO SUPPORT.

~~PROJECTS~~ WE ALSO HELP WITH THE COST OF GRASS CUTTING THE CHURCHYARD AND REGULAR GRASS CUTTING AROUND THE VILLAGE.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY FELLOW COUNCILERS FOR THEIR WORK AND TIME PUT IN OVER THE LAST YEAR IT IS PLEASING THAT THE 2 NEW COUNCILERS HAVE FITTED IN SO WELL.

(3)

THIS COMING YEAR WILL BE VERY INTERESTING FOR ALL COUNCILS WITH THE ^{NEW} SOMERSET UNITARY AUTHORITY WE WILL NO DOUBT SEE SOME CHANGES GOOD AND BAD FOR US BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE SURE THAT CATCETT VILLAGE LIFE CONTINUES IN THE SAME WAY AS USUAL.

WE WILL BE KEPT UP TO DATE WITH ALL BY OUR COUNTY COUNCILLER HARRY HUNT WHO I WOULD THANK FOR HIS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND SENDING HIS MOTHER WHEN HE WAS ILL.

LASTLY THANKS TO ALL VILLAGERS FOR MAKING CATCETT A PLACE TO ENJOY LIVING IN.

THANKS TO JULIA

JAF LUTTRELL MEMORIAL CHARITY

The JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity (not to be confused with the Luttrell Trust as we are not connected in any way) was founded in 1898 by Mrs Luttrell of Edington Manor to benefit the sick poor of the parish (changed in 1989 to those in Need, Hardship or Distress), within the neighbourhood of Edington (now interpreted to extend to Chilton Polden, Catcott, Burtle & Cossington and to be assistance in times of difficulty). All grants are in confidence and paid on receipt of invoice or in some circumstances a money grant is awarded.

The Trustees are continuing to cover all the work previously carried out by the clerk and any applications can still be sent to JAFLMCclerk@hotmail.com or by contacting a Trustee as detailed in our local advertising.

As in previous years the trustees continue to be proactive by advertising locally, to seek out people and organisations who may benefit under the conditions laid down. We advertise on a regular basis in the Polden Post, and in the village hall PowerPoint presentations at local events, prior to our twice yearly meetings. We also post notification of the next meeting in all villages in the area of benefit and on the Parish Council and village websites and with the co-operation of Gill Bertolucci, the Carers Champion, we have details in the surgery at Edington. At all times we ensure we are compliant with Charity Commission recommendations regarding safeguarding, and data protection. Much work has been done over the last few months to update the Charity's guidelines and procedures and one Trustee has completed a course on GDPR.

The prime purpose of this charity is to award grants to individuals in need. Over the past 12 months we have seen the effect of the cost of living crisis in the grant applications. This year grants have assisted with installations of a downstairs toilet, wood burner, oil boiler, and replacement doors and windows. Heating oil, home refurbishments, funeral expenses, car repairs, and, household appliances as well as flowers following bereavements and gifts at Christmas to help lighten burdens and show support. The Charity will continue to support general grants if funds are available.

Finally we wish to convey our thanks to Anne Bassi who has been one of the two Edington Parish Council appointed trustees since 2007. She has been an invaluable member of the team, recently responsibility for keeping abreast of all Charity Commission guidelines. Regretably, she wishes to retire, and we will miss her, but look forward, very much, to welcoming and working with the new appointee.

The Trustees meet twice yearly and normally all applications need to be with the Clerk in good time to be included, enabling Trustees to portion the assets to the greatest need. We are flexible and in an emergency, applications can be considered at other times. If you live in villages previously mentioned and would like to be considered for help or know of someone who might benefit from the Charity's assistance, then please talk with one of the Trustees, or for an application form e mail the address given previously.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Friday 6th October 2023

Report to Edington and Catcott Parish Council Annual General Meeting

by Catherine Andrews, Edington Parish Council representative. May 2023

CM

The Catcott Educational Charity Report for 2022

As Trustees, we are pleased to report that The Catcott Educational Charity has received another generous local endowment during the year.

In 2022, The Catcott Educational Charity has again funded the purchase of a number of educational aids to support the learning of local children at Catcott School. The educational aids will also provide a valuable resource for future use in the School.

The new Head Teacher, Mrs Laura Constanza, when thanking the charity trustees, has written that she is looking forward to working with the trustees in the future, continuing to support local children.

The Charity is always willing to accept donations to bolster existing funds.

Sheila Hamilton, Correspondent

Report to Catcott Parish Council from The Mary Godfrey Charity Trustees 9th May 2023

The only two significant changes in 2022 were

- 1 The income from the Basic Payment Scheme farm subsidy is now reducing due to changes in government policy. Although only about 9% in total last year we understand that this figure will decline further as these changes are rolled out. However we do not yet know more detail.
- 2 Our outgoings have also been less so this has balanced that decline.

The greater part of our outgoings is due to the donations we make to Catcott villagers at Christmas time each year. In addition, the trustees are willing to consider requests for financial help for Catcott residents at other times of the year. Please contact one of the trustees (listed below) with relevant information.

Geoff Barnett

Lorna People

Brian Robins

Peter Mackay

St Peter's Church Report ~~2022~~ 2023

Fabric

The fabric of the building is generally in good condition at present. Our electrical system, lightning conductor and fire extinguishers are currently fit for use. A new smart meter has been installed.

There has been some progress in terms of the removal of conifers adjoining our North boundary wall. We had requested that the landowner remove them several times, pointing out the damage that our surveyor believes them to be doing to the wall and, possibly, the north side of the church. The development company attempting to obtain planning permission to build on land adjacent to our North wall have pledged to remove the conifers in two stages, so as to allow gradual settlement of the church yard land. The top two-thirds are to be removed in the spring of 2023.

We have now completed repair work to the South wall of our churchyard. Some of the rendering looks poor so the builder is returning to complete repairs in early 2023. It is believed that the problem was caused by the fact that the original rendering repairs were completed in the blisteringly hot weeks of summer 2022, and the render evaporated too quickly for it to harden as it should.

We are working with the DAC to agree upon a handrail down the steps into the church from the south door. We hope to have this completed in 2023.

A number of issues highlighted in our last Quinquennial report, such as the plaster inside the North wall of the building remain unaddressed due to lack of funds. We are due to have our next Quinquennial inspection done at the end of 2023.

Activities

Whilst we currently only hold one Sunday service each month, this is becoming increasingly popular, bucking the trend of shrinking congregations. We also continue to grow our monthly Service of Quiet, which takes place on the third Tuesday evening of each month. This service also draws in a number of folk who do not ordinarily attend a formal Sunday service. This Easter we held an Easter Vigil service on Easter Saturday evening, which was well-attended and very moving. This will be repeated in 2023.

Our monthly fundraising coffee mornings continue to be popular, generally drawing in about 40 local people. As well as raising vital funds to support the upkeep of the church, it provides a valuable social focus for the community. We are extremely grateful to those who organize these coffee mornings and to those who host them.

In conjunction with the Catcott Village Association we organized a collection of food and children's gifts for Christmas, which we entitled Catcott Cares. We were astounded by the generous response of our neighbours, who either left donations on their doorstep or dropped them off at the church early in December. We estimate that 50% of households in Catcott contributed. The proceeds were shared between the Salvation Army food bank and gift collection in Street and the Trussell Trust food bank in Bridgwater.

We had a very successful Gift Day this year, bringing in over £1,400—much needed after the increase in energy bills etc. We are truly grateful to all who contributed.

We were privileged to provide a venue and spiritual/emotional support to several local families this year upon the death of a loved one. We bade farewell to six well-loved neighbours, including David Reid, Arthur Beasley, Gerry Wheeler and Connie Symes. We consider it a particular ministry on our part to support funerals and many of the Friends of St Peter's come to assist in various ways. It is also a means to bind us to the village and to stay relevant to their needs. We also held a service of Remembrance for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On a brighter note we were delighted to welcome the whole of Catcott school for their Christmas celebration and further services are planned by the school for 2023. The school also participated in our annual Remembrance Day service at the war memorial.

We continued in our to take the message of Christmas and Easter outside of the church building by installing a large crib and tree with lights in our churchyard in December 2022, Many families came to view it and again it brought the church to the notice of the village. We again followed the same practice at Easter, setting out a large Easter garden together with three large wooden crosses in the churchyard beside the much-used public footpath.

We are, as always, most grateful to the Catcott Parish Council for their annual grant to support the maintenance of the church yard.

Vice Chairs report May 2023 for The Village Hall, Edington

It has certainly been a busy year for us at the hall, with the sad departure of Ros Dolding from the committee after many years of dedicated service. Handover to a new committee has now fully happened, with the new addition of Stephen Fry as chair in October and myself moving from a fundraising role into the Vice Chair position. In addition to this, we have a new booking secretary, minute secretary and some new trustees to the Hall.

With so much change, we have restructured and have placed focus on the inner workings of the hall as Covid has taken its toll, with community events and fundraising also taking a high priority. With the increases in running costs we have also had to alter our hire charges, noting that this has not been done in many years prior to now. Our goal being to reduce outgoings, increase use and income while streamlining how it is run. Something we have made good headway with so far.

We have this month launched a new website on a new domain www.edingtonvillagehall.com and have begun reaching out more to other establishments and committees in the area to form closer working bonds. For example a very successful collaboration between ourselves, The CVA and Edington Parish Council was just held for the kings Coronation with many from our local communities coming out and celebrating together. This is something we will continue to progress with as we believe strongly in community and forming bonds with others close by with a few projects hopefully happening very soon.

In the last year we have continued use by our regular users, have welcomed some new classes and have already had a number of fund raising events to help support the hall. We have some exciting events coming over the course of the year, The Somerset Day biggest ever quiz, a community free music festival, Open day fete and family BBQ and much more. We still have Polden Productions and Village Voices using us and our committee are still supporting Coffee Stop, Bingo, Film Night, Happy Companions and Pop up Sport monthly. We have seen some dwindling numbers again since Covid for these and in our users classes so have begun campaigns to help increase exposure and numbers all around.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for its continued support over this year and have hopes this relationship will continue to thrive moving forward into next year and beyond.

Sam Gilbert
Vice Chair