

CATCOTT PARISH MEETING

APM 2025/2026 - 1

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday, 12th May 2026 in Catcott School Hall at 6.30pm

- 25/26 /1 **PRESENT** - Cllr Barnett in the Chair and 15 villagers **IN ATTENDANCE** - the Clerk to the Council.
- 25/26 /2 **APOLOGIES** - none received..
- 25/26 /3 **MINUTES** of the previous Parish Meeting dated 13th May 2025 were confirmed and signed.
- 25/26 /4 **REPORTS** were given as follows and will be attached to the minutes as appendices. After each report there was an opportunity for questions.
- a. Catcott Parish Council - Geoff Barnett, Chairman of the Parish Council
 - b. Catcott Parish Council accounts - the Clerk had provided copies of the accounts for all present. She explained a couple of large expenses which related to CIL money. There were no questions.
 - c. Village Agent - Daniel Bell was present and gave an interesting talk. He explained how his role is related to the doctor surgeries in the area and he is employed by the NHS. He can give help in very many ways and attends several Community Hubs. Amongst other things they can help with IT, Scams, Demetia support, Arts, crafts and book clubs. Village Agents can help in any crisis, whatever the need and are happy to visit people's homes to discuss matters confidentially or for any other reason. He kindly gave his work phone number 07496 461 548.
 - d. Police - Tom Russell from Bridgwater Police Station had provided a written report which was read to the meeting.
 - e. Catcott Primary School - Report from Emma Shepherd, Office Manager, was read to the meeting.
 - f. JAF Luttrell Memorial Charity - Report from Catherine Andrews was read to the meeting.
 - g. King William Inne - Tina Smith reported on the remarkable progress of this venture.
 - h. Somerset Council - SCllr Harry Munt gave an informative report.
 - i. The Village Hall - An apology for a delay in providing a report had been received. When it comes in it will be added to the appendices.
 - j. Catcott Educational Charity - Report from Sheila Hamilton was read to the meeting.
 - k. Mary Godfrey Charity - Report from Peter Mackay was read to the meeting.
 - l. Neighbourhood Watch - David Thomas provided a verbal report. Things had been quiet crime wise in Catcott. The E-Watch Group now covers most areas. A property in Weares Lane had been broken in to.
 - m. Playing Field Committee - Report from Liz Baker was read to the meeting.
 - n. Catcott Village Association - Janet Holden gave a full and interesting report.
 - o. St Peter's Church - Report from Jackie Parkes was read to the meeting.
 - p. Edington and District History Group - Phil Chaplin had provided a report which was read to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairman

Date

CATCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

AGM - CHAIRMANS REPORT - 12TH MAY 2026

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to our Annual General Meeting

I always seem to start this report by saying I cannot believe another year has gone by, they just seem to go quicker.

We have had our normal amount of meetings, although some do not last very long, we do get to discuss many different issues properly.

Potholes are number 1, which report via email and app. However we have no control over the time Somerset Council take to get them filled in, once they are marked by highways they have thirty days to fill them. Should they go over that time, and it causes an accident or a tyre blow out, then you can make a claim.

I just thought I would point this out!

Planning is always contentious, and Manor Farm I find strange as they put in plans for development only to withdraw them, and we can only wait to see what happens.

We still have outstanding issues and the planning department seem very slow to respond.

In this last year the parish council were able to help with money for apparatus at the Play Area. I would like to thank the Play area committee, for the work they put in to keep it going, as it is certainly well used.

We were also able to help the Catcott Village Association with the difibulator, by paying for the electrical installation work, and paying for the power for the next 5 years. Thank you to the CVA members for the time and work throughout the year, also for organising the cutting of the tape by our local MP Tessa Munt and organising the tea and cake for the official 'opening'.

I think all this shows working together is good for the community of Catcott.

This brings me on to The King William, having received a letter from Palmers Brewery regarding making into a community pub.

The Parish council called a public meeting, which was well attended. From that luckily enough people have taken on the challenge, and providing enough money is raised, our lovely pub should soon be open.

So anyone who has not given or helped towards funding please 'step up', and that includes me! Visit on Saturday, 12 - 5pm, for a look to see what is already happening inside.

I would like to thank Julia for her work and advise throughout the year.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Parish Council Members for their help and support during the year, we work as a team with each member having different roles and strengths, all striving to keep Catcott the village where we are all happy to live.

G R Barnett - Chairman

Thrive - formerly Community Council for Somerset

Report for Catcott Parish Council
May 2026

1. Purpose of the Report

This report provides an overview of the work and services provided by Thrive.

2. Thrive – Overview

We are a countywide charity that supports communities across Somerset to thrive.

3. Community Buildings and Spaces

3.1 Importance of Community Buildings

Community buildings such as village halls, community centres, church halls, and other shared spaces

are central to rural life. They provide venues for meetings, social activity, service delivery, and

community events, helping to maintain strong local connections, reduce social isolation, and support

community wellbeing.

3.2 Support for Community Buildings (including Membership)

Thrive provides independent advice and practical support to those responsible for managing

community buildings, including parish councils, trustees, and volunteer committees. This support is

designed to help ensure that local buildings are safe, wellmanaged, legally compliant, financially

sustainable, and fit for ongoing community use.

Support available includes:

- Advice on governance, roles and responsibilities, and legal compliance
- Guidance on funding opportunities, income generation, and longterm sustainability
- Support with maintenance planning and asset management
- Access to information, guidance, and best practice tailored to communityrun buildings

Much of this support is delivered through Thrive's Community Buildings and Spaces

Membership

scheme. Membership is available to village halls, community centres, church halls, and other

communityrun facilities across Somerset and provides a range of practical benefits to support

volunteers and trustees in their roles.

Key membership benefits include:

- Access to a comprehensive online Members Area, containing over 100 specialist guidance

notes covering topics such as governance, health and safety, safeguarding, funding, insurance,

hiring policies, and building management

- Regular updates on legislation, funding opportunities, events, and training relevant to community buildings

- Access to exclusive discounts from trusted suppliers, including services such as staging, booking systems, and building related equipment
- The reassurance of having access to friendly, independent advice, supporting both day to day management queries and more complex issues

Membership is available at an annual cost starting from £20 plus VAT and offers a cost effective way

for community building committees to reduce risk, improve confidence, and strengthen the long term

sustainability of local community assets.

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/community-buildings-and-places/>

3.3 Greener Community Buildings and Decarb Somerset Resources

Thrive previously delivered the Decarb Somerset programme, which supported voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise buildings across Somerset to improve energy efficiency and

reduce carbon emissions. While the Decarb Somerset project has now ended, the guidance, tools, and

learning developed through the programme remain available via the Thrive website.

These resources continue to help community organisations and parish councils to:

- Understand energy use and running costs
- Identify practical energy efficiency improvements
- Explore options for reducing carbon emissions
- Build confidence when considering future retrofit or decarbonisation projects

Although direct project support is no longer available, these materials remain a valuable reference for

communities seeking to reduce costs and contribute to local and national climate objectives. For more

information click here <https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/decarb-somerset/>

4. Rural Affordable Housing

4.1 The Rural Housing Challenge

The availability of affordable housing is a significant challenge for many rural communities. High

property prices and limited housing supply can prevent local people, including younger households,

families, and key workers, from remaining in their villages. This can have long term impacts on

community sustainability, local services, and the rural economy.

4.2 Rural Housing Enabler Service

Thrive delivers an independent Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) service to support rural communities

in addressing local affordable housing needs. Rural Housing Enablers work collaboratively with

parish councils, residents, and partner organisations to ensure that housing proposals are

communityled and based on clearly evidenced local need.

Typical responsibilities of the Rural Housing Enabler include:

- Raising awareness of the impact that a lack of affordable housing can have on rural communities, including effects on population balance, services, and community cohesion
- Supporting communities to undertake Housing Needs Surveys to identify local housing need
- Providing opportunities for communities to discuss and consider how that need could be met, including site identification and scheme viability
- Brokering relationships between key stakeholders, including parish councils, local authorities, housing associations, planning and development officers, and landowners, while providing impartial and independent advice
- Unlocking barriers as they arise, including planning, land, funding, or delivery challenges, to help schemes progress from early discussion through to construction and completion
- Monitoring and evaluating rural housing delivery and sharing learning, best practice, and examples to inform and inspire other rural communities

Throughout the process, the Rural Housing Enabler role helps ensure that communities remain central to decisionmaking and that support is tailored to local circumstances and priorities.

4.3 Evidence of Local Housing Need

Where appropriate, Thrive can support the delivery of Housing Needs Surveys. These surveys provide robust evidence of demand for affordable housing and can support planning decisions, funding bids, and informed consideration by parish councils.

For more information click here

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/community-buildings-and-places/>

5. Supporting the Catcott Community: Village Agent and Community Activity Overview

Our Village Agent service supports anyone living in Somerset who is facing a worrying or tough time.

This could be because of a number of reasons; health, finances, housing or feelings of loneliness and

isolation. We have a team of over 60 Village Agents who use their local expertise to advocate for people and their communities.

Residents in and around Catcott village continue to benefit from a range of practical and communitybased support provided through Thrive's Village Agent service - the local Village Agent for Catcott is Daniel Bell.

Over the last 6 months we have supported 48 residents in the TA7 9 area. This support has focused on

helping residents access financial and practical assistance, enabling them to remain independent and access activities that ensure they are well supported within their community.

5.1 Community Groups and Preventing Isolation

A strong partnership between Thrive and the Villages Together project has transformed Bitham Walk

Hall from an unused space to a vibrant community hub supporting residents from Bitham and the

surrounding area. In addition to individual support, a number of residents from the wider TA7 area

regularly attend community activities at Bitham throughout the week. These groups provide:

- Guidance and informal advice
- Opportunities to develop confidence and practical skills
- Social connection to help prevent isolation
- Ongoing support through the Veterans Hub

These communityled activities play an important role in early support and prevention, particularly for

people who may not yet need formal services but benefit from social connection and local guidance.

To watch a video and find out more about this community hub, please visit -

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/thrive-and-villages-together-working-in-partnership-to-create-a-community-hub-at-bitham-wall-hall-the-hub/>

6. Welcome to All

Thrive lead Welcome to All, which is a strong partnership of voluntary, community, faith, local

council, and social enterprise organisations. Together, we have created and run a network of six

welcoming community hubs across the county. It addresses the growing need for practical, compassionate support rooted in lived experience and delivered through trusted community

organisations. Our vision is to make Somerset a beacon of inclusivity and equity.

For more information on this programme and the hubs closest to your area please click on this link

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/welcome-to-all/>

7. Somerset Diverse Communities

Thrive supports people from ethnically diverse and marginalised backgrounds. We work closely with

local communities, building trust and listening to lived experiences. Our goal is to work with communities, not for them – creating space for people to lead and be heard. We run events, forums

and outreach activities. We connect with faith groups and communities, support their work and run the

Somerset Interfaith and Belief network. We support schools to promote inclusion and the

celebration

of diversity within the school community. We provide support and training for statutory organisations

and the VCFSE sector on cultural competency, inclusive practise and community engagement. For

more information go to <https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/diverse-and-displaced-communities/>

8. Impact Across Somerset

Thrive has supported numerous parishes and communities across Somerset to strengthen community

buildings and address local housing challenges and support to individuals through our Village Agent

programme.

This contributes to longterm resilience, helping communities remain active, inclusive, and sustainable

in line with our strategy

<https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Strategy-Documents-Nov-2024-Final-1-compressed.pdf>

Click here for our Impact report for 2025 https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Thrive-Impact-Report_Low-Res.pdf

We also advocate for the communities we serve in Somerset and as part of this work carry out

research to create briefing papers to inform decision makers about key issues. In 2025 our Cold

Homes Tough Choices paper was published <https://thrivesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/THRIVE-Cold-Homes-Tough-Choices-October-2025.pdf>

9. Further Information

For further information or discussion, parish councils can contact Thrive:

- Website: www.thrivesomerset.org.uk
- Email: info@thrivesomerset.org.uk
- Telephone: 01823 331222

**Re: Catcott Parish Council - FW: Contact your
Neighbourhood Policing Team - NPT-QAGJ6**

**Catcott
Parish Council** < clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk >

POLICE 1

< Thomas.Russell@avonandsomerset.police.uk >

Wed, 06 May 2026 15:14:31 +0100

To "clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk"<clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Hello,

This is Tom from Bridgwater police station.

Please accept my apologies, I will not be able to make the meeting. I have researched the last three months and Catcott has not received any significant crime to mention. I aim to patrol Catcott at least once per week, demand allowing.

If any Catcott residents or Parish council have any issues to report, please use 999 or 101. If it's a local issue which doesn't require reporting, please feel free to let me know. I will endeavour to support and solve any issues you may have.

Thank you,

Tom

Thank you for the information you have provided via the Avon and Somerset Police Website. The automated reference given was: NPT-QAGJ6.

This half term has been short but extremely busy, with pupils across the school enjoying a wide range of learning opportunities and enrichment activities.

We marked Earth Day with a variety of activities designed to encourage children to think about sustainability and caring for the environment. The event generated great enthusiasm amongst the pupils.

The school community also came together for a successful charity fundraising day in memory of a former pupil. The event was very well supported by families and pupils, helping to raise money for a meaningful cause while also reinforcing the values of kindness and community spirit.

Our Year 6 pupils will this week be completing their SATs assessments and we would like to recognise both the children and staff team for their dedication and hard work throughout the week and the build up to it. We are incredibly proud of the resilience and positive attitudes shown by all pupils.

Educational visits have continued to provide valuable experiences for our children, with Year 1 and Year 2 set to enjoy a trip to Lyme Regis to build on their history project learning about Mary Anning.

We were pleased to welcome Mrs Baldwin-Wheat to the school this term in her role as SENDCo and look forward to the expertise and support she will bring to the school community.

Looking ahead, we are planning a programme of improvements to sections of the school fencing in order to further enhance the safety and security of the school site for pupils, staff and visitors. These works will help ensure that the school environment remains secure, well maintained and fit for purpose for the future.

We also have further staffing changes on the horizon. Following a great deal of reflection after a period of leave, Mrs Constanza has made the decision not to return to her role as Head Teacher at Catcott. We would like to thank her for her commitment and contribution to the school and wish her all the very best for the future. The process to recruit a new Head Teacher will begin shortly and we will keep the community updated as this progresses.

I hope this is suitable?

Emma Shepherd

Office Manager

Catcott Primary School

01278 722527

At Catcott Primary School, we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. If you have a concern, please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr Hyland or Miss Lintern. Alternatively, you can telephone Children's Social Care on: 0300 123 2224. The information in this message should be regarded as confidential and is intended for the addressee only. If you have received this message in error, please permanently delete it and inform the sender.

6

J A F Luttrell Memorial Charity report for Edington Parish Council AGM 2026

The J A F Luttrell Memorial Charity gives grants to those in 'need, hardship and distress' and is of assistance to those residents in difficulty in Edington, Chilton Polden, Catcott, Burtle & Cossington. The Trustees meet twice yearly (spring and autumn) and applications should 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. At all times we ensure we are compliant with Charity Commission recommendations regarding safeguarding, and data protection.

Our Safeguarding policy has been reviewed by Spark Somerset (support for charities and community groups in Somerset through advice, training, funding guidance and volunteer support). We are also exploring a route for basic DBS for all trustees via an umbrella organisation. Trustees, Rosemary Tucker and Catherine Andrews met with the Village Agent, Daniel Bell, to discuss what we may be able to do for each other. It was agreed that we would provide his details to any applicants where his support could be to their advantage and he would in turn give our details to anyone in our area of benefice who he identified as being eligible to apply for a grant.

Following the notices of the sale of the estate of the late Adrian Moon it was apparent there was some confusion between the J A F Luttrell Memorial Charity and The Mostyn Owen Trust. A statement has been publicised stating there is no connection.

Since the last AGM the Charity has distributed 31 planters most of which were post bereavement, a few post illness or surgery and a Christmas gift where a hamper was not appropriate & 3 Christmas hampers were given. Grants were awarded to enable a student to attend summer camp, the purchase of a self-propelled wheelchair for a student going to university (the NHS waiting list was so long they were unable to wait) and 2 separate grants for heating and one for counselling support.

The prime purpose of this charity is to award grants to individuals in need, so if you know of someone living in the area of benefit who might benefit from the Charity's assistance, please give them our details, or if appropriate, apply on their behalf. Applications can be sent to JAFLMCclerk@hotmail.com or by contacting a Trustee as detailed in our local advertising.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Friday 23rd October 2026

Trustees: Dr Simon Hayne, Catherine Andrews,
Rosemary Tucker, Anita Hayne, Rev Andrew Stevens

Report to Edington and Catcott Parish Council Annual General Meeting
by Catherine Andrews, Edington Parish Council representative. May 2025

Summer 2025 Palmers Brewery approached the Parish Council to explore an opportunity for the Community to acquire the tenancy of the King William Inn, which had been closed for sometime. They presented the opportunity to re open the pub within a community business tenancy that had been successfully achieved at a Palmers pub in Dorset.

During that summer the Parish Council helped to organise various public meetings where the outcome was the formation of a community volunteer working party. The working party was tasked with exploring further the opportunity and viability of this offer on behalf of the wider community.

This work concluded with a thorough presentation by the working party of facts and findings at a public meeting last November at the village hall . Circa 100 community voted in favour of the re opening of the King William Inn as a community run asset.

- **The vision being** - A traditional Somerset village pub that prioritises warmth within its welcome , quality within its offer , a space for the community to gather for a friendly chat ,organised activity or the traditional pub pastime of a pint or tippie or two , accompanied by some hearty food fayre
- A village pub , run by the community, managed by hospitality professionals , supported by a successful traditional brewery as freeholder, within a tenancy agreement.

A Committee was formed to take the project forward through the required next steps.

A business entity of a Community Benefit Society has been formed , with the support of the Plunkett Charity and registered with the FCA . It is registered as the Catcott Community Benefit Hub Limited. A CBS is a business entity , established for the benefit of the wider community , owned by its members ie share holders , but not solely for its members. A one member one vote basis gives members the opportunity to influence the community business and purpose by way of voting rights. Although not specifically a not for profit organisation - Any profit must be deployed within the community business or the wider community for the benefit of the community .

In addition much work by the Committee involving many hours has been undertaken in reaching the stage we are now at ,

Negotiations with Palmers on tenancy terms & premises re furbishment, recruitment of a management team , business structure , operational requirements, financial obligations , volunteer support to name just a few of the many areas the Committee have devoted their time and resources with the help of many community members.

With our legal business entity formalised and in place we were finally able to open a bank account - the vital requirement for us to commence the fund raising.

~~This brings you up to date~~ - Currently many many hours of volunteer work is on going at the pub ,

This element alone has been a huge contribution from the community, complimenting the work Palmers have committed to, in bringing the fabric and function of the building up to an acceptable standard.

KW1 (2)

The planned opening day is 1st July, with a number of soft opening sessions running the week prior.

The immediate task NOW is the vital and critical one of raising funds to support the re opening requirements of such a community asset.

We now need to raise the funds to facilitate all the hard work and commitment by the community, coming to fruition!

The fundraising campaign ~~was~~ launched on the 1st May, this has been supported by publicity via social media, newsletters and from today you will see posters and flyers distributed throughout the Golden villages.

As of this evening we have raised £16k of our target £50k. An open event is planned at the pub this Saturday afternoon for the community to come and discover more about what has been achieved to date and the future plans for the pub.

An opportunity to have their say in their pub! And maybe ^{try} a free pint from Palmers! Wine / soft drinks / tea / coffee is on offer for the non beer drinkers!

Thank you Parish Councillors for the opportunity to inform you of your communities progress in this endeavour.

Cllr Harry Munt < harry.munt@somerset.gov.uk >

Tue, 12 May 2026 19:06:23 +0100

To "Catcott Parish Clerk" < clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk >

Hi Julia, below is the annual report

Over the past year, the Council's financial position has improved significantly, with the funding gap reduced from £101 million to £25 million. This has been supported by £30 million in Government funding, alongside a Council Tax increase - still keeping Somerset below neighbouring counties rates. Around two-thirds of Council Tax continues to fund adult and children's social care, where demand remains high, but the Council has maintained a balanced budget each year since its formation in 2023.

- Highways remain a major focus following an exceptionally wet winter. Over 16,000 road defects have been reported since January, with thousands of potholes already repaired and additional repair teams deployed. A further £5 million investment will improve long-term road maintenance, and Somerset continues to be rated among the best in the South West for road condition.
- Following severe weather earlier this year, the Council and partners responded rapidly to flooding risks. Looking ahead, a £4 million Somerset Rivers Authority programme will support flood prevention work, including natural flood management and community grants, while keeping the drainage levy unchanged.
- Investment in transport and connectivity is progressing, including £730,000 for the Strawberry Line active travel route and consultation on improving rural "green lanes" for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders. In addition, over £24 million in Government funding has been secured to improve bus services, particularly for rural communities.
- Finally, key developments in housing, planning and services include new zero-carbon council homes in Minehead, approving the refurbishment of Yeovil's octagon theatre, plans for additional special educational needs school places, and continued improvements in adult social care through the "My Life, My Future" programme. Recycling services are also expanding, particularly for flats, ensuring more households can access comprehensive recycling collections.

THE VILLAGE HALL, EDINGTON – CHAIRS REPORT MAY 2026

The Village Hall continues to play an important role at the heart of our community, providing a welcoming space for residents, local groups, meetings, celebrations, and events throughout the year.

We are pleased that the hall remains well used by a variety of regular clubs, community activities, and private hirers. It is encouraging to see people of all ages continuing to make use of the facility, helping to keep the hall active and valued within the village. This past year saw Edington Parish Council move their meetings to our committee room and hold some larger meetings in our main hall, as well as successfully hosting their long standing village clean up too.

Over recent months, the committee and volunteers have continued working hard to maintain and improve the building and surrounding areas. Having fully striped and resurfaced our much loved floor already this year, routine maintenance and smaller improvement projects have been carried out to ensure the hall remains safe, comfortable, and fit for purpose for everyone who uses it. We have more larger projects in the pipeline to rejuvenate our now aging facility.

Like many community spaces, the hall continues to face challenges from increasing running and maintenance costs. Despite this, we remain committed to keeping the hall affordable and accessible for local residents and community groups wherever possible having ensured some local initiatives have been able to access our use when they need too in order to assist larger projects.

The committee would like to thank all volunteers, regular users, supporters and the Parish Council for their continued encouragement and support. The goodwill and involvement of the local community remain essential to the ongoing success of the Village Hall.

Looking ahead we have plans to continue improving the facilities, encouraging wider community use, and supporting events and activities that bring residents together and strengthen community spirit within the village.

Sam Charlesworth

Chair to The Village Hall, Edington

Re: Educational Charity

3 emails

Catcott Parish Council <clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk>

svhamilton@sky.com <svhamilton@sky.com>

Thu, 30 Apr 2026 17:52:12 +0100

To "Catcott Parish Clerk"<clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Good afternoon Julia,

Please see The Catcott Educational Charity Report for 2025 as follows:

The Catcott Educational Charity Report for 2025

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

In 2025, The Catcott Educational Charity has funded the purchase of another iPad to support the learning of local children at Catcott School, following an appeal by the Head Teacher to our local community. This educational aid will continue to provide a valuable resource in the future.

In April 2025, Catcott School donated their five historic Admissions Registers, which date back to Victorian times, to The Catcott Educational Charity. These five Registers have since been handed to the safekeeping of the Trustees of Edington School Room and are now stored in the School Room archives. They are available to be viewed (by appointment) and so continue to serve a meaningful role within our community.

The Catcott Educational Charity has suffered from below its usual quarterly income due to stock market fluctuations and so the regular annual income has diminished. The Charity is therefore looking for any donations from 'alternative' sources such as The Catcott Parish Council and The Catcott Village Association Open Gardens Event to bolster existing funds and provide more educational support for local children.

Sheila Hamilton, Correspondent

This Report was written for The Catcott Annual Parish Meeting to be held in May 2026, as requested by Mrs Julia Marshall, Clerk to the Parish Council.

Kind regards,
Sheila

On Wednesday 29 April 2026 at 10:37:04 BST, Catcott Parish Clerk <clerk@catcottparishcouncil.gov.uk> wrote:

Our Annual Parish Meeting in Catcott is due to take place on Tuesday 12th May at 6.30pm in the Catcott School Hall.

11

Mary Godfrey Charity report to Catcott Parish Council May 2026

A largely uneventful year but the charity finances have suffered yet again.

Defra continues to reduce subsidies paid on our land holdings but at the same time is increasing environmental payments on one SSSI property.

The charity's investments with the Charity Commission official investment fund have also suffered in contrast to the state of the UK stock market. The investment manager has been changed so it is hoped that this year will see an improvement.

At Christmas time 2025 the charity made donations to 13 individuals in the village

+ 3 received flowers

Catcott Playing Field Chairpersons report 2026

A fairly quiet year re fundraising but we had a very successful Christmas Fare after changing the format which proved very popular and we will be using this format again this year. Thank you to the Village choir for supporting us and for entertaining the attendants with a beautifully sung medley of songs. Also a very special thank you to the youth dance group who were also amazing. Both groups proved very popular with the crowd.

Thank you to Shiela Hamilton who has been ensuring that our tubs are filled with flowers and watered regularly they look so pretty. We have recently purchased a water but which we will set up at the side of the covered seating area which will help keep the tubs watered.

Also a thank you to Catcott parish council for allowing us to use the CIL money to purchase new leg/supports for the trim trail, we are very grateful for their support.

We have no major purchases planned this year but have a few small things to improve on.

I would like to thank the committee for all their help and support throughout the year and all the volunteers who support us at our fundraising events.

Liz Baker

Chairperson Catcott Playing Field

CVA ①



Report for the Catcott Parish Council Annual Meeting From the CVA, May 2026

The CVA's year began with the **Community Lunch**, held at The Crown Inn in January, with 34 villagers attending.

February is when we hold our **AGM**, and like the previous year we had a Wine and Cheese event after the meeting, so members could put forward suggestions and ideas for the following year.

The **annual village clean-up** took place in March starting at the Pound, with a very good turn out of locals. A big thank you to all who came out for this event. Although The S.C. Council were unable to provide Pickers and Bags, due to a big demand elsewhere, we were able to provide enough of our own with villagers also bringing their own. Bags were collected from around the village and left in the Pound to be collected on Monday by for the Council. Thanks went to Maria and Phil for providing refreshments at Court Farm as a thank you to all who helped.

We joined forces with Edington to celebrate **V. E, Day** on the 8th of May.

Our **Annual Open Gardens Day** was held on Sunday 22nd June, with 16 gardens open and various other places of interest to view. Chloe Maria Aston the Piano Bike Lady (Now in the Guinness Book of Records) stopped and sang in various places around the village. The Vintage Cars and a Taxi transported visitors around, cream teas were available at the school, with other refreshments were at the Village hall, A BBQ was served at the end of the day in the school car park, A Big Thank you again to the Wheeler family for the use of the Cars, a big attraction. So many people to thank for helping with the running of this event, stewards, cake makers, and all the seen and unseen volunteers.

In September Janet Holden hosted this years Macmillan Coffee Morning with all proceed donated to the charity.

Also A **Treasure Hunt** took place on Sunday 14th September, starting at the hall in Edington, ending up at the Crown Inn Catcott. This was a very well organised and well planned event with 6 or 7 cars setting off at five minute intervals. Despite the rain it was a very enjoyable event, testing ones skills of answering local clues and navigating the best route to make. Thanks went to Steve St. Claire for planning it.

Unfortunately two planned events were cancelled, Safari Supper and the Race Night.

Catcott Church arranged their Annual "**Spirit of Christmas , Be a Star**" providing gifts and food for the Salvation Army and the food banks to be distributed to those in need. The CVA helped with distributing the leaflets to all the houses. Thank you to all who donated.

In the Month of December, **windows and gateways** were dressed and decorated, with a walk around /tour on the evening of 19th , where we could admire the colourful and very creative displays.

The Burtle Silver band came to play on the 15th December. at our **Carols around the Tree** on the 15th, but due to inclement weather it was held in the School hall, Mulled Wine and Mince pies refreshments were available. A collection was made and this year donated to the RNLI

Other things the CVA have been involved in include:

- Providing the floral displays around the village,
- Obtaining and planting the front entrance yard of the School
- Maintenance of the Barrels and troughs with replacements when needed.
- Refreshed the area at the entrance to Catcott on Manor Road
- Sending out a newsletter four times a year to keep villagers informed,
- Toy swap pin board installed within the Book/Bus Stop (avoids actual toys)
- Purchase of additional litter pickers and 'help yourself' picker stand in book stop
- Keeping the village informed on
 - The Catcott WhatsApp group, known as "Catcott News,"
 - Newsletter x4 times per year
 - Catcott Village website and Facebook page

Lastly we would like to thank all who helped in any small way to help the CVA get enough funds to provide a **Defibrillator** for the village. And to the Catcott Parish Council providing a grant to help with the cost of the electrics and groundwork manpower. This has been a long and arduous task , but we have done it. It has been up and running since just before last Christmas, now in its final position on the wall of the Pound.

One last final thing. , The CVA will be celebrating their **50th year** serving and supporting all residents of our community.

St Peter's Report to the Catcott Parish Council AGM 2026

St Peter's remains in generally good repair, though the concern regarding damp penetrating a section of the West wall at the level of our gallery remains. The heavy and continuous rains that we now experience aggravate the situation. Repointing of the buttress was commissioned, and completed in March 2026 and we hope this will improve the situation. We have also commissioned the repair and repainting of the Bell tower, which we hope will be done soon.

During 2025 we obtained permission to house swift boxes in the tower. The boxes were made by one villager, with the costs being covered by another. They were installed in February 2026, and we hope there will be residents this breeding season.

We have continued the discussions regarding the provision of facilities such as improved disabled and funeral access, a toilet, servery and small meeting room. Our main aim is to retain as much as possible of our beloved original historic Church by minimising changes within the main body of the Church, whilst making it more useable for the community. Meetings with focus groups, the Gift Day, and visits from the Diocese Buildings Adviser, Deanery and Parish Development Adviser have all been encouraging. Towards the end of 2025 we began to work with an Architect with a view to drawing up some initial plans, and opened a Faculty Application with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC). In March 2026, having submitted initial plans and supporting documents, there was a Delegation visit from the DAC and others, where the needs of the Church, and the initial plans were discussed. Following the DAC feedback, new plans were developed, and we await feedback from some other organisations, and expect that the plans may well change again as consultations continue. We plan to have displays at the 2026 Gift Day (in June) to update people. The project is now known as St Peter's Accessibility Project.

Our regular services have continued - the monthly BCP (Book of Common Prayer) Communion services on the first Sunday, and the Quiet Service on the third Tuesday of the month.

In other months, the regular BCP service marked the seasons. August celebrated 'Lammastide' (the beginning of the grain harvest). There was the Harvest service in October, followed by a collection for the Bridgwater Foodbank. Catcott villagers were again very generous, and a large number of boxes were filled. On All Souls day it was possible to light a candle during the service, to remember those loved and lost. The candles remained available for the rest of the day. On Armistice Day there was a service at the War Memorial. Despite the weather it was well supported, and it was lovely to be joined by Catcott School Children. We celebrated the start of Advent again with the Advent Service. The Church was decorated, and the Nativity and Christmas tree were outside as usual. The day before there was a collection for the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. The Catcott Village Association (CVA) had helped with the distribution of leaflets. The community was again very generous with their response. On Christmas Day we celebrated with Christmas Communion.

Easter 2026 there was a small Easter Garden in the Churchyard, and the three crosses were placed outside the Church to mark Good Friday and then decorated to celebrate Easter Sunday when there was an Easter Day Communion Service. In between all these, there were two short services which were more reflective in nature: 'A Service of Peace & Justice' in September, and 'Prayers for Peace at Christmas' in December. St Peter's Coffee mornings continue to be a monthly treat and raise important funds, and are hosted by generous villagers. As part of the Catcott Open Gardens, the Church provided cream teas at the school raising money for the Church, and the Church tower was open for visitors, raising money for the Air Ambulance. At St Peter's Gift day in June there were some of the old Bibles, Registers etc out for anyone interested in looking at them, and donations received. Also early discussions about the Accessibility Project. We held another 'Soup and a Pud' Harvest Lunch at the Village Hall in October. It was a lovely occasion again, and all those who joined us had a great time, and were well fed!

We are fortunate to have 2 Church Wardens and a small number of dedicated people who make up the St Peter's Friends Group. There is then a wider group of people who support the Church in all sorts of ways, and for whose support we are very grateful.

Ms

Read: RE: Edington and District History Group

4 emails

clerk < clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk >

Parish Clerk < clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk >

Tue, 12 May 2026 15:25:47 +0100

To "phil"<phil@chaplinp.plus.com>

Your message

To: "'Parish Clerk'"<clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Edington and District History Group

Sent: Mon, 11 May 2026 19:51:18 +0100

was read on Tue, 12 May 2026 15:25:46 +0100

phil@chaplinp.plus.com <phil@chaplinp.plus.com>

Mon, 11 May 2026 19:51:22 +0100

To "'Parish Clerk'"<clerk@edingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Hi Julia

I can give you the brief report I supplied for the ESR AGM:

My thanks to Nadia for continuing the archivist's duties. That was always the 'must do' activity, even if we were unable (as we have been) to give full attention to the EDHG's other activities.

As long as the archive is maintained, there is a solid base to (re)build on for when we can get enthusiasm going again.

Patsy Atkins offered to revive some monthly meetings. The first, on March 23rd, was attended by 10 people. We await to see if the next 2 which are planned for Apr and May bring out any more bodies, and whether any of them are prepared to help run more meetings and/or other activities.

To re-cap, our aims and activities have encompassed:

- To maintain an archive of local materials, which can be made accessible for researchers etc;
- To publish and sell publications – there is still a stock of most of the previously prepared booklets, mostly centred on local churches and their records;
- To run talks and other events and visits.

The publication on Chilton Polden Church is still 90% ready. John Rigler has been working with Chris Lush, but Chris' health has slowed things down. I am also due to take some 'better' photos to go in the booklet, but the weather throughout the winter pushed this down the priorities.

I am the sole member of the pre-Covid Steering Group still 'standing'. At some point we need to revive this Group in order to refresh and move forward with expanding what EDHG does.

Hope that is useful

Regards