



The Parish website is constantly being improved. It now includes links to up to date traffic and travel information for our area, and also allows users to report faulty street lighting and water leaks. Please visit the site as often as possible, as it is full of relevant local information. If you are a newcomer to the parish, you will find the "What's on" section especially useful, as it lists the events in the parish on a daily basis. You may be surprised at how much is going on! Also, if you organise or run any local events, clubs or societies, then please check the "What's on" page to ensure your organisations details are listed correctly. To report any errors or omissions please contact the Clerk.

A gallery page will be added shortly, showing pictures of Catshill and North Marlbrook from days gone by. If you have any photographs which you wish to share with everyone, please submit them to the Parish Council.

TODDLERS GROUP

From September 2009, a new Parents and Toddlers Group will be held on Friday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon at Catshill Village Hall. Toddlers Groups have been successful ventures at the Village Hall for over 30 years. With our recent refurbishment, there are now great facilities for babies and toddlers and it is a brilliant way to meet other new parents and carers in a social setting. If you are interested in finding out more, or to put your child's name down to attend, please contact Harriet Fletcher on 07812055612, or cvhtoddlers@aol.co.uk

HALLOWEEN BASH.

There will be a Halloween Bash on Saturday 31st October for the 11 to 14 year olds. This will be a free event, from 5 pm to 6.30 pm, but all those attending will need a ticket which will be available soon; see our website or Parish Council notice boards for more details. Dress to scare

DONATIONS POLICY.

From time to time the Parish Council is asked to provide funding to a variety of local groups in pursuit of their specific aims. We prepare a budget every October which takes into account the likelihood of these requests, but sometimes not all the funding requests can be granted owing to lack of advance notice. Although the Parish Council cannot promise to provide any or all of the amounts requested, the council would like to make the funding policy more widely known and a brief outline is given below. The Parish Council will give priority to applications which address one or more of the following:

- Create safer and stronger communities. Enable employment opportunities and access to employment.
- Encourage and develop healthy and active lifestyles. Improve the quality and cleanliness of our environment.
- Promote and develop decent and affordable housing. Improve sport and leisure provision usage.
- Minimise waste and maximise recycling.

Additionally if a local voluntary group would like to apply for funding the council will expect them to provide:

- Estimated costs of the project or activity for which the donation is required. Latest accounts, where appropriate.
- An explanation as to how the grant is to be spent. Access to the Parish Council to monitor the project or activities.
- A report to the Parish Council on how the donation has been spent on conclusion.

More detailed information on the parish council's donations policy is available from the clerk. All requests for funding in 2010 should be lodged with the Parish Council by the end of September 2009; emergency requests may be considered at other times of the year.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Bromsgrove District Council. 01527 873232.
Out of hours emergency 01527 871 565

Catshill and Marlbrook Local Policing Team
Telephone: 01527 583733. 0300 333 3000
Crimestoppers. 0800 555 111

Write to the Parish Council:
Catshill & North Marlbrook
Parish Council
Catshill Village Hall
Golden Cross Lane
Catshill
BROMSGROVE B61 0JZ.

PLANNING.

.Planning applications can now be viewed on line; to see them log on to <http://appview.bromsgrove.gov.uk>. and enter either the application number or the address details.

Parish Council telephone: 07813 671 899
e-mail: clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Published by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council.

Finally don't forget that the Home page will always tell you when the next Full Parish Council Meeting is, to which you are most welcome.

ANNUAL BONFIRE.

Once again the Parish Council are supporting the Catshill Scouts with the annual bonfire on the Meadow on Saturday 31st October. The bonfire will be lit at 6.30 pm with the firework display starting at 7 pm – and plans are in the pipeline to make it even better than last year!. Admission is by a minimum donation of £1.50 for adults, £1 for children, or families £5.00 Free parking is available.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

This year's Remembrance Sunday service at Catshill's War Memorial will be held on 8th November and is open to anyone who wants to remember our fallen. All those attending are asked to gather at the Meadow Road/Stourbridge Road site from 10.45 am on Sunday 8th November. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards in the Catshill Club.



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2009

From the chair

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish newsletter. The aim of the council is to keep you informed of the work of the council and events that are taking place within the parish, by this newsletter and via the website. The parish council would be pleased to hear your comments on the previous newsletter, which can be submitted by telephone or an e-mail to the clerk, together with any suggestions for inclusion in future editions.

The annual Fun Day held on 13th June was well attended, helped no doubt by the wonderful sunshine, and the council looks forward to your continuing support of this event.

This year the council has supported two competitions. One has already taken place, which is the best hanging basket display and later in the year, the best Christmas light display. These are open to any one living in the Parish, with prizes for the winners.

Gordon Witcomb

Chairman Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council.

VILLAGE FUN DAY.

On the 13th June 2009, the 5th Annual Fun Day took place on the Catshill Meadow opposite the Middle School. The Grand Opening started with a parade of first school children wearing masquerade masks they had made especially for the day. They were led by Glamba Samba, the Catshill based Samba Band, which made sure there was plenty of noise. Don Prust and Glenys Blackmore judged the best mask and the winner was asked to officially open the Fun day.

For the first time in several years, it was very sunny and it was estimated that 2,500 people visited the Meadow, thereby confirming the Fun day as the biggest community event in the village.

The main attractions included the UK's largest inflatable gladiator run, which young and old enjoyed, as well as a bouncy castle, Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council, Wyvern Radio, and Bromsgrove District Council. All in all there were over 40 other local services and groups including 6th Bromsgrove (Catshill) scout group, which was kept busy all day with the catering. The traditional favourite was the Duck Race, with yellow 68 winning, although there were several escape attempts. However, the escapees were retrieved and are now in training for next year's race!

Ian Prust, the organiser, said that the Catshill Fun Day is going from strength to strength, with more stalls, entertainment and activities than ever before, and all monies raised will be spent on maintaining the facilities at the meadow such as the play areas, pathway, changing rooms and football pitch. Ian wishes to thank the residents and all who worked hard to make it such a resounding success, not forgetting of course all those who hired floor space for their stalls.



Catshill Fish Bar
139 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill.
01527 876318

Catshill Pizzaman
T: 01527 557 488
153 GOLDEN CROSS LANE,
CATSHILL, BROMSGROVE, B61 0JZ



Have a Safe & Secure Summer!

West Mercia is a safe place to live and burglary figures remain low. In fact, less than one per cent of homes are burgled each year and your local policing team is working hard to reduce this figure even further. Most burglaries are carried out by opportunistic thieves and up to half are committed by thieves who enter the house through an unlocked door or an open window. With the advent of hot weather, West Mercia Police is reminding residents to be vigilant and follow a few simple steps to significantly reduce the chances of their home being broken into over the summer months and while away on holiday:

- Ensure doors and windows are locked at all times.
- Fit sturdy deadlocks (British Standard BS3621) to all external doors
- Use timer switches to turn lights on in the evenings while you are out
- Ensure newspapers, post, milk etc are not left on display
- Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your home while you're away.
- Don't forget your garden! Effective garden security includes defensive planting and well-kept fences will help to keep your home secure

To find out more, get in touch with Bromsgrove North Local Policing Team by calling 01527 583733, or emailing catshillandmarlbrook.lpt@westmerciaconstabulary.pnn.police.uk.



Catshill Village Meadow.



The dog fouling on the Meadow has become worse recently, so a monitoring campaign began to ascertain who was allowing their dogs to foul the football pitch. Notices were displayed **BAG IT, TIE IT, BIN IT**, which was met with approval by the responsible dog owners. Fortunately, there has been an improvement, and it is hoped that this will continue. Thanks goes to everyone for their cooperation in this matter.

The goal posts have now been moved off the Meadow with the end of the football season. (Is there ever an end?) The youth of the village still like to kick a ball around and the committee hopes to raise funds for the cage type of facility, which will allow football to be played throughout the year.

The success of the Boot sales has been mixed this year owing to the weather. Unfortunately the Boys Brigade sale was abandoned owing to the heavy rain, but the scouts were more successful in June. The August Bank Holiday weekend is scheduled for another Boot Sale.

Finally, to all users of the meadow, please respect the Oasis, pick up the rubbish, and do not smash bottles. Remember small children and dogs enjoy the meadow and they do not want serious injury occurring because of broken glass.

Local Businesses

Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council has a policy of supporting local businesses wherever possible. It encourages our parishioners to do the same by buying from local shops and obtaining services from suppliers in and around the Parish. This policy has many benefits. Firstly local businesses generally employ local people so you would be helping your friends, family and neighbours in giving the local economy a boost. Secondly, there is less travel involved and for small amounts the overall cost of a local shopping trip would be lower, even more so if the trip was done without the car. Also, with less travel by car, there is a small contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions and helping the planet. Local businesses wishing to advertise in the newsletter are asked to contact the clerk.

Why Play Bridge?

Bridge is a trick-taking card game of skill and chance. It is one of the most enduring games in the world; for over 100 years, people of all types and from all walks of life have been fascinated by the game. It is one of the most popular leisure activities in Britain, with around 300,000 people playing bridge on a regular basis. Bridge is an excellent social game, which can be played by everyone. It is an inexpensive activity, a wonderful way to meet new people, make new friends and take on new challenges! Men and women play bridge in almost equal numbers. Marginally more women than men attend bridge lessons and marginally more men than women take part in championship matches!

There are many opportunities in this area to learn how to play. Local colleges run bridge tuition courses for beginners and improving players. There are also local bridge teachers available who will arrange a course of lessons on a private basis. For those bridge players who want to be more adventurous, there are opportunities to play a gentler form of Duplicate Bridge. The aim of these sessions is to encourage new, inexperienced or 'non-duplicate' players to continue improving their game without the added stress of time constraints or playing with very experienced and practiced players. For the really adventurous there are many bridge clubs in the area who would be delighted to welcome new players. Visitors would receive a warm welcome and in many clubs individual players are always guaranteed a partner.

If you would like any further advice or information regarding the game of bridge, the availability of lessons, or the names of bridge clubs:

The local contact is: anne.glendenning@mypostoffice.co.uk and the English Bridge Union lisa@ebu.co.uk or john@ebu.co.uk

Catshill – What a great place to live . . .

I wonder what your reaction was to reading that headline, *“what idiot wrote that . . . this person obviously doesn't live here...”* or words to that effect? Well I do live in Catshill and have done for five years, more than that, I work in Catshill and I think it's a great place to live.

As part of the work I do in the village I chair the local PACT meetings. These are often seen, by some, as opportunities to have a good moan to the police about why they are not doing their job better! However, they can be places of real community. I have seen passion, love, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation and much more take place at these meetings. Catshill is a great place to live you - won't find that kind of diversity everywhere. What about the village fun day? Hundreds of people turned out this year and there was a great sense of community.

These days I can't walk in the village without meeting someone I know, or someone who knows me, or someone who's connected to the church via our youth work, Oasis, our Thursday drop in centre or through other links such as the chaplaincy work we do with the local Fire & Rescue service.

Yes, we have our problems, but together I really think we can make a difference and change those problems into opportunities to be a better community. You might not always realise it, and you might take this village for granted? But just stop a moment and look around you - I'm sure you'll agree with me, Catshill really is a great place to live . . .

School Fete.

Reverend Neil Bennett, Senior Minister, Catshill Baptist Church

DAY OF KINDNESS.

The Bromsgrove Day of Kindness is now in its fifth year and the date is set for Friday October 9th. Whilst the main event takes place in the High Street, it is still important for efforts to be made all around the town. In Charford, Catshill and Sidemoor kindness teams offered themselves to their local areas in various ways. Hopefully this year even more people in the Bromsgrove local areas will get together on the day.

An increase in the energy of compassion, kindness and love means a physical existence consisting of more compassion, kindness and love. If we want love and kindness for the children we love so much then we are responsible, no more pointing at everyone else or blaming others. The Day of Kindness is a hopeful step along the way to bringing more balance, a little more love and compassion.

It would be good to spread the day nationally and even further maybe through sponsorship. Please take a look at the web site www.dayofkindness.co.uk and more importantly please get involved.

Twinning Association

The Bromsgrove & District Twinning Association has been in existence for over 30 years. Initially there was just the link with the town of Gronau in Germany but now we have a formal twinning with St Sauveur Lendelin in France. We are also developing a link with Frisa in Italy. The formal twinning with saint Sauveur Lendelin was completed with a ceremony in Bromsgrove town centre at the end of June. One of the reasons for twinning with St Sauveur is that it is a rural area and more closely matches the area around Bromsgrove. Gronau is just over the border from the eastern Dutch city of Enschede. Saint Sauveur Lendelin is in Normandy about half way between Cherbourg and Mont St Michel just north of the cathedral city of Coutances. One of our parish councillors, Phil Baker is also the chairman of the Twinning Association and would be delighted to give you more information if you would like to get involved. Either telephone him



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