



For up to date information about the Parish Council and what is happening in this parish visit our website -

<http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/>

Find out who your councillors are, read the minutes of past meetings, see a map of the parish and check out local services.

What's on in your Parish

6th November. Bonfire and firework display on The Meadow, Meadow Road.

14th November. Remembrance Sunday Service. 10 am. Catshill Club.
Act of Remembrance 10.45 at the War Memorial. See article inside

First and third Monday in each month. M & C Friendship Club meet in Catshill Village Hall from 2pm. Contact Anne Glendenning on 01527 882169.

The Royal British Legion, Lickey End Branch covers this parish. It meets on the first Wednesday in the month at Lickey End Club, starting at 7 pm. For more information contact Alan Kelly 0121 445 2574

The Parish Council meet on the last Thursday of each month, except August and December, in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. All parishioners are welcome at these meetings.

For a comprehensive list of the activities within the parish, check out our website....

<http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/>

This newsletter is delivered to almost 3000 homes in the Catshill and North Marlbrook area; if you would like to advertise your business, club or social group or would like to be mentioned in the next What's on section, please contact the clerk, details below.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Bromsgrove District Council: 01527 881288
Out of hours emergency: 01527 871 565

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

CONTACT US

Write, phone or e-mail the Parish Council:
Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

Catshill Village Hall
Golden Cross Lane
Catshill
BROMSGROVE
B61 0JZ.

Parish Council telephone: 07813 671 899
e-mail: clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
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PARISH NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2010

Chairman's Welcome

This is proving to be a year of changes the biggest of which has of course been the change of government. This has resulted in changes and there are more to come with the announcement of the comprehensive spending review and if the pundits are to be believed its outcome is going to be challenging for us all!

On a day to day level our newly appointed Lengthsman is carrying out duties throughout the parish to the satisfaction of the council. His work includes drain and gully clearance, keeping road signs clean and visible and siding out footways and pavements; if you notice an area that needs his attention, then please contact the clerk to the parish council.

I recently had the pleasure of attending a presentation at the Royal British Legion to award John Howlett for 60 years service to the Poppy day appeal fund. This is a tremendous achievement and John rightly deserves the recognition for his dedication to the cause. The Lickey End Branch of the Royal British Legion welcomes new members both male and female, ex services or civilian; contact to be made via the branch secretary, details on the back page.

Gordon Witcomb



Gordon Witcomb, Chairman

Christmas window competition

The Parish Council provides prizes every year to the houses that are judged to have the best Christmas window display. A cash prize is given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ranging from £25 to £10. We believe this is a worthwhile endeavour to encourage a bit of sparkle and fun during the winter months. We would like to urge as many residents in Catshill and North Marlbrook to take part and brighten up the neighbourhood - we hope it will help to bring good cheer to our community and you never know you may even win a prize! Judging will take place during the week before Christmas and the winners address will be shown on our website.

Are you interested in becoming a parish councillor?

Some parish councils have been in existence since 1894 but here at Catshill and North Marlbrook it is relatively young having been set up as recently as 1994! It does not, therefore, have a strong history of this form of local government or archives rich with exciting ventures and encounters. Until it becomes more established many of you who live in Catshill and North Marlbrook may be unsure about what it does and the roles it entails. Below is a job description for that role should you wish to stand for election in May next year. If you are interested in this worthwhile community role then you may like to come and see what happens at the monthly parish council meetings that are held on the last Thursday of each month in Catshill Village Hall.

Role:	Parish Councillor.
Responsible to:	All people resident within the Parish.
Regular liaison with:	Residents, other councillors, local authorities.
Period of service:	4 years, with possible extension.
Salary:	Voluntary position with some expenses payable in certain cases
Main purpose:	Representing the views of all residents within the parish.
Secondary purpose:	Influencing and shaping the long term development policy for the parish. Commenting on planning applications affecting the parish Improving the quality of life and the environment in the parish Working to identify issues which are important to the lives of residents. Working to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies. Responsibility for running local services which may include open spaces, play areas, village halls, community transport, footpath maintenance and potential for more. Deciding on how much to raise through the precept in order to deliver your council's services.

Occasionally an elected councillor may resign their post owing to personal reasons such as moving out of the area or a change in work commitments, in which case a 'casual vacancy' occurs; if there is then no call for a by-election the parish council can co-opt a suitable person to fill that vacancy. There is currently a vacancy in the parish council's Barley Mow Ward—please contact the Clerk for details.



Any 14" Pizza off menu £7.99

T: 01527 557 488

153 GOLDEN CROSS LANE,
CATSHILL, BROMSGROVE, B61 0JZ

Voucher offer

Any 14" Pizza off menu £7.99

Sunday to Thursday

Catshill Fish Bar

139 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill.

01527 876318

Voucher offer

Cod, Chips & Curry Sauce £4.75

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"I'm a school governor get me out of here!"

Written by: Rev'd Neil Bennett.

Within thespian circles it has always been said that you should never work with animals or *children*, too unpredictable, too small, too smelly, **the animals that is not the children! Well not all of them!**

I'm not sure who originally said that but I can kind of understand the sentiment. It is really hard work to commit to working with children and young people; after all, they're moody, unmotivated, hormonal, and rude – **Right?**

I actually think that pretty well sums up many peoples attitudes towards children and young people, particularly in Catshill. But I think it's a rather narrow view.

I've worked with children and young people for nearly sixteen years and, whilst some of them are moody and rude, the vast majority are simply great. That's one of the reasons why when, back in 2005 I was approached by Catshill 1st School to serve as their chair of governors, I jumped at the opportunity.

Being a school governor, of course, is not an easy job. In fact it's downright tough, and you're not likely to be thanked for it either. But you do get the amazing opportunity to contribute to the life, ethos, and atmosphere of really important communities within our village.

Catshill 1st School, Catshill Middle School and Chadsgrove are places where children and young people engage in the amazing opportunity and adventure of learning. Our village schools are served by some amazing teachers and TA's, carers, cleaners, and caretakers, I know many of them. But these schools are also served by dedicated teams of men and women, ordinary men and women, who have committed themselves to helping these schools be the very best they can be as governors.

What a responsibility that is, but what a joy also. Surely there is nothing as important as making a contribution into the future lives of these children. So what do governors actually do? Well the everyday priorities of the school change from year to year but the long-term focus does not.

The role of the governing body is to ensure that the school has high expectations, develops good relationships, challenges complacency and provides a practical policy framework within which the school can operate.

The governors also manage the school budget, they ensure that the school curriculum is balanced and covers the National Curriculum and Religious Education. The governors also have the huge responsibility of appointing head-teachers, deputy heads and agreeing how other staff are to be appointed, managed and disciplined.

Don't just sit on the sidelines and moan about the '**kids of today**' and '**when I was at school...**' why don't you go out and do something positive about it!

Neighbourhood Warden



My name is Felicity Pate and I am your local Neighbourhood Warden for the Catshill area. I am employed by Bromsgrove District Council within the Community Safety

Team. This team is jointly funded by Bromsgrove District Council and the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership. This entails working in partnership with other agencies such as the West Mercia Police, Bromsgrove District Housing Trust, Worcestershire County Council and many others to achieve a common aim, which is to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within your area.

The scheme aims to give residents a bespoke service to deal with community concerns around crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

I have been in this role for nearly two years and thrive on the challenges that I face on a day to day basis. Meeting different members of the community and helping to make a difference makes my job both exciting and very rewarding. One of the things I enjoy the most in my role is meeting young people, engaging and understanding their concerns and helping arrange projects that encourage young people to engage in positive activities and provide them with a sense of belonging, within their community.

If you have an issue that you need to discuss you may either speak to me if you see me on foot patrol or you can contact the Worcestershire hub on 01527 88 1288 and ask to speak to a member of the Community Safety Team. You may also email your concerns to neighbourhoodwardens@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday will be held on 14th November this year. As in previous years a service will be held at the Catshill War Memorial with the 2 minutes silence at 11.00am.

In order to ensure the safety of everyone who attends at this time the Parish Council has applied for the roads around the War Memorial to be temporarily closed. After consultation with the police and the district council the road closure orders have been granted and will affect Meadow Road and its associated side roads and the stretch of Stourbridge Road between Church Road and Rocky Lane.

The organisers of the service would like to ask residents who may be affected by the road closures for their tolerance and to make plans in advance if they intend to use their cars between 10.30am and 11.30am on 14th November either by altering the time of their intended journey or by parking their car in advance outside the closure zone.

Everyone who wishes to remember those in the armed forces who sacrificed their lives for the greater good is welcome to attend the service and share in the refreshments which will be available afterwards at the Catshill Club, Meadow Road.

Chinese & Thai Food
To Take Away

MR
WONG'S

139a Golden Cross Lane
Catshill, Bromsgrove
B61 0JZ

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OPEN 7 DAYS
SUN - THURS
5:00pm - 11:30pm
(Bank Holidays inclusive)
FRI - SAT
5:00pm - Midnight

Catshill Methodist Church



Present day

Greetings from Catshill Methodist Church: There have been Methodists meeting in Catshill for many, many years. They originally met in one of the cottages near the current church on Golden Cross Lane. The church that now inhabits the current site is the third building that the Methodists have built, so that they might, in every generation, worship God and serve the community. This remains our aim, and we meet for worship every Sunday morning at 10.30 am and on the third Sunday of each month at 4 pm we run 'Messy Church' aimed at providing for younger children (aged 3-11). At other times we gather for prayer and fellowship and we try to serve the community. We run two friendship groups, Rendezvous that meets every other Thursday morning; the other called Tuesday at 8 that meets once a month. Both groups invite speakers to share news about a charity, community activity or hobby. We run a toddlers group every Wednesday afternoon, and our buildings are used by other community groups including Rainbows and Brownies.

In partnership with the other churches we run the Autumn Club on Mondays for older people and this provides a meal and games activity (this meets at the Baptist church).

Church attendance is, these days, a minority activity. Catshill is still well provided for with Churches. Indeed one could say that there are too many churches in the village for the numbers who attend. But whilst all the main churches hold beliefs in this day and age that are not dissimilar from each other, the provision of alternatives might still be useful as each church tends to have a distinctive style. Methodists tend to classify themselves as 'people with a warm heart'. We try not to be too dogmatic but first and foremost to welcome anyone who wants to be part of our community. So we would extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to try church – to give their children a sight of the Christian story through Messy Church – to have a child baptised – to get married in church. You can simply turn up – or gain further information about the church at www.catshillmethodists.org.uk



Construction in progress 1968

Catshill Library

Catshill Library is a small community library situated in Barley Mow Lane, Catshill. It offers a good selection of fiction and non-fiction for adults, young people and children, including large print and spoken word on tapes and CDs. There is also a good selection of children's and adult's DVDs for hire.

Children aged 0 to 4 can join Bookcrawl and collect stickers. When they have collected 4 stickers they receive a certificate. There are lots of certificates to collect.

Bookstart baby and toddler packs are available in the library for children who have not received them from their Health Visitor or Nursery Nurse at a development check. Treasure chests can also be made available for 3 to 4 year olds who do not attend an early years setting.

Regular events at the library include weekly story time and colouring sessions for pre-school age children during term times; and competitions and other activities for children during school holidays, including the Summer Reading Challenge. For adults there are a reading group and a creative writing group which meet one evening each month; and for adults and children the first Saturday of each month is Jigsaw swap day.

The library offers access to the internet and email through three public computers, and free access to on-line reference sources including Ancestry on-line.



Christmas Collections 2010

There are **no changes** to your collections during Christmas or New Year.

Please place your wheeled bin out by 7am on your usual day of collection.



Police matters

Laura Wright has joined the team as the new Local Policing Sergeant for Bromsgrove North Sector.

Catshill and Marlbrook Local Policing Team intend to hold regular PACT surgeries so that people have the opportunity to come and speak to us and partner agencies about any concerns. Please look out for posters / leaflets advertising these community engagements.

As residents are aware, parking outside Tesco Express is an ongoing issue. Customers are encouraged to park on nearby roads where there are no double yellow lines, it is safe and you are not causing an obstruction for other vehicles or pedestrians. Owing to the number of complaints we regularly receive, officers will no longer be giving words of advice to the drivers of offending vehicles instead fixed penalty notices will be issued.

Another concern we have been dealing with is lorries going to and from the nearby quarry at high speed, travelling down Braces Lane or even parking on the junction of Braces Lane / Old Birmingham Road. If registration marks are taken we can then speak to the owners of these vehicles as well as the owners of the land fill site. If you have any information or concerns please contact us. Contact details on back page.

The car park on Braces Lane recreation area has been enlarged. The police would like those using the field to ensure that their vehicles are parked on the car park to prevent any obstruction in Braces Lane. Currently there is a problem where vehicles are parking inconsiderately and at times it is highly unlikely that emergency vehicles would be able to pass.

Youth Charity Fun Run

The young people's plan came together and the fun run held at Catshill Youth Centre and Catshill Middle School Field on the 20th August 2010 raised cash for the British Heart Foundation. The event went off despite the weather and the young people had a great time. Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council, some parents and local CSO's turned up to support young people's endeavours and they raised £300 for the charity.

These young people set out to raise funds for a worthwhile cause and have some fun in the process. They had been engaging with community members to gain support, had delivered flyers for the day, been in contact with the charity of their choosing, had discussions with local police and councillors about their project, and had represented young people in the area in a confident and positive way.

The Parish Council was so pleased with the event that they now want to make it an annual event. This is great news for the young people, as all their hard work has been noticed by community representatives as a positive endeavour for the area, which will help to get the young people active in their communities. The Parish councillors also picked the best fancy dress costumes on the day and these went to, third place, Patricia-Lilli Argiru, second Place, Jordon Norton and first place Abbey Breen. All three received an HMV voucher for their efforts



Tulip Tree Children's Centre

**Sure Start
Children's Centres**
Worcestershire

The **Tulip Tree Children's Centre** based at **Catshill First School and Nursery, Gibb Lane** – provides services for Catshill, Rubery, Copton Hackett, Lickey and Kendal End, Marlbrook, Blackwell and Burcot.

Children's Centres provide:

Services for families with children pre-birth to 5 years.
Early learning and links to childcare for children aged 0 to 5 years.
Family support services providing help/advice with a friendly face to support such issues as sleeping, behaviour and feeding.
Family health advice, including antenatal support.
Links to adult education, training and advice on employment.

The **Tulip Tree** is native to Worcestershire although very rarely seen around the county these days. The name was the most popular choice at consultation with the local community. This new Children's Centre will be coming to your local area **SOON!** We want to know how you would like us to develop services for local families. For further details or information please contact: Kerry Cullen (Children's Centre Lead) or Sara Townsend (Support Worker) on 01564 823 139 or email: kerry.cullen@actionforchildren.org.uk