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Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

Newsletter Autumn 2011

A Message from the Chair

WE are approaching the end of yet another year, one which has seen the council presented with many tasks, some good some not so good. We are being faced with the eventual development of the Catshill Marshes in our parish along with the nearby development of land in Perryfields Road. We expect this will cause an increase to traffic flows through the parish and, as we know, these problems are highlighted more whenever there is an incident on the surrounding motorways.

On a lighter note, as a council we are once again at full strength even though there were not enough people standing for the role of parish councillor during the May elections. We now have the full complement of members for the three wards – eight members represent Catshill Village, three members represent Barley Mow and two members represent Marlbrook.



Once again the Catshill library staff organised the annual summer reading scheme for the younger children and I was honoured to present to them their medals and certificates. Encouraging our children in this way is another good reason why we need to

support the fight to keep the library open in Catshill.

The council is always looking for further ways to improve and enhance the parish and welcomes your ideas. So don't hesitate to forward your ideas to the clerk – we are keen to make the best of our parish and hope you will join with us to make it an area we can be proud of.

On behalf of the parish council and staff I wish you all the very best seasonal greetings for Christmas and New Year.

Councillor Gordon Witcomb

The Basement Project

Homeless in this area?

SURELY not! Surely this area doesn't have homeless people! Sadly it does.

But a charity, called The Basement Project, is trying to help – especially those young people who literally “fall through the net” of other organisations.



It has a drop-in service where young people can talk to qualified youth workers about housing and homelessness issues, offers informal mediation and advocacy should that be needed, provides showering and washing facilities and even supplies food and basic toiletries when available. It also runs workshops such as life skills training, healthy eating, self esteem, confidence building, budget management, and cooking on a budget.

There is an outreach service with qualified support workers who can offer dedicated support to help young people manage the transition to independent living and a Private Tenancy Scheme which can help access private rented accommodation.

These services are highly regarded by the local authorities but the economic climate is really affecting the charity, with some funders reducing grants whilst the numbers needing to access the service have never been higher.

Visits to the drop in centre have *doubled* over the last 5 years to over 800 per year and the Private Tenancy Scheme has successfully prevented 55 young people (and their children) from homelessness since 2009.

The Basement Project is facing a tough challenge to continue. Opening hours have been reduced and some redundancies have been made yet it still faces a shortfall which could mean closure if not met.

To help resolve this issue the Basement Project is seeking “Friends” who value their home comforts and, realising what it might be like to be without them, are willing to give a donation ideally of £30 a year, though any contribution will be most welcome.

If you can help please contact the Basement on 01527 832993, or post a cheque payable to The Basement Project to The Basement Project, Bromsgrove Baptist Church, New Road, Bromsgrove, B60 2JD (please write your name and address on the back and add the word “Friend”) or drop in and see us in the Basement underneath the Baptist Church! You can also give using the donate option at www.bromsgrovebasementproject.co.uk

Olympics 2012

NOBODY will need reminding that the Olympics takes place in London next year.

In Catshill & North Marlbrook we intend to commemorate the occasion with a number of sporting and cultural events in and around next year's Fun Day. Exact date has yet to be decided but it will be one weekend in late June.

We plan to invite local sports clubs and organisations to put on displays and participation events plus we hope to organise our own such as tug o' war and French boules.

The emphasis will not just be on competition but also participation. In addition events will be for all age groups not just the young and fit.

As well as outdoor sports we plan to use the Village Hall for indoor games, cultural events and entertainment.

This is quite an ambitious add-on to the Fun Day but we think it needs a bolster and re-vamp. What better than to tie-in with the Olympics?

However, if we are going to be successful we clearly need a number of additional helpers and volunteers plus if anybody wants to organise a sport either on the Meadow or at the Village Hall or maybe something cultural like an art show or dancing, we want to hear from you. Such events do not organise themselves and the work cannot fall on to the shoulders of just a few people.

This will be a great opportunity for the whole community to do something together. Anybody wanting more information or wishing to volunteer their services should contact Phil Baker on 01527 870861 or email: p.baker@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk.




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Massive Crowd Attend Annual Firework Display

SATURDAY 5th November saw a huge crowd turn up at the Meadow to enjoy the annual village bonfire and firework display.

A few years ago your parish council agreed to help Catshill Scouts reintroduce a firework display in the village by offering financial backing, and has continued to do so ever since.

I am sure that the massive crowd which attended this year's event will agree that it was spectacular, and a bargain too, as a donation of only £2 for adults and £1 for children (under 5's free) was all that was requested.

The weather was perfect, the huge bonfire brilliant and the professionally run firework display itself, which lasted longer than many expected, was fantastic. Many of your parish councillors were in attendance both in the crowd and in the small illuminated tent where they were able to chat to visitors. As ever, the Scouts provided a wonderful selection of hot food from their marquee which was much appreciated.



Some of the willing volunteers in action.

Just witnessing the happy smiles and appreciative cheers of the large yet orderly crowd was a pleasure itself.

Many thanks must go to Catshill Scouts and to all involved in the organising and staging of the event, which takes hours of work well in advance of the night itself.

Your parish council is proud to support this family friendly event and intends to continue to do so in the future. If you missed it this year, then join us next year, and bring your friends, and lets see if we can break the attendance record again!

Cllr. Paul Masters.

Lest We Forget



Marching to the War Memorial.

ON Friday 11th November at 11am there was an act of remembrance at the war memorial. Then 10am on Sunday 13th saw a huge attendance at the annual "Churches Together" service held in the Catshill Club, followed by a short service across the road at the memorial, where the names of those listed on the memorial were read out prior to the a two minute silence at 11am. Thanks to all who helped make these events so successful and dignified. Dale Carter, chairman of The Royal British Legion Lickey End Branch also wishes to thank everyone for their generosity, adding that the branch was one of just a few in the UK that doubled its collection total last year, and that the initial signs from this year's Poppy Appeal promised another increase.

Local Policing News

Hello all

I would just like to keep you up to date on the results of the recent PACT Surgeries held for Catshill and Marlbrook. Approximately 35 people attended in total and the issues raised were:

Spenser Walk - Poor road conditions and general untidiness of the area, bins left in alleyways etc.

A request for a lamppost at the rear of 29 Spenser Walk (in the garage area).

The Dock - Lack of disabled parking spaces in the Dock area and by the Costcutter. Speeding of vehicles up and down the Dock (speed bumps suggested by a resident).

Anti-social behaviour.

Parking issues at school drop off and pick up times.

A request for the road to be opened up at the top next to the shop.

Dog mess in Catshill in general.

Tesco Express - Parking .

Cottage Lane – Speeding.

The Local Policing internet pages will be updated with these results and actions assigned to each one to be dealt with by the relevant agency.

Please keep in touch with any suggestions or issues you would like to raise yourselves.

Kind Regards,

Kirsten Bowkett Community Support Officer 6212, Bromsgrove North Local Policing

Tel: **01527 558610**

email: kirsten.bowkett@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

From Our Past



IN previous editions of this newsletter we have brought you interesting images of times past, including early pictures of the War Memorial and the building of Catshill

Methodist Church in the 1960s. In this edition we bring you a photograph of Church Road from the 1930's supplied by Cllr. Glenys Blackmoor. It's amazing to note how much of the Church must have been visible from the junction of Wildmoor Lane and Church Road in those days.

If you have an interesting photograph of anything in the parish that you would like to share in a future edition, then please let us know.

The Role of the Parish Council Clerk

THE Parish Council has a small office attached to the side of Catshill Village Hall which is manned on two mornings each week by the Clerk to the Council. Gill Lungley has been working for the Parish Council for almost four years and her role is to act as the Council's administrator with jobs ranging from attending all parish council and committee meetings to take the minutes, preparing the agendas, maintaining a sound financial position and overseeing contractual arrangements.



The Clerk is an employee of the council whereas the Parish Councillors are volunteers and our role is to decide the council's policies, how the money raised via the precept is to be spent to best effect and to interact with the community to find out what you want. As parish councillors we are very keen to hear your views and welcome feedback from you regarding anything we do.

Our clerk is usually in the office on Mondays and Thursdays between 10:00hrs and 12:00hrs and can be contacted at all times via the dedicated parish council no. 07813 671899, through the website or by e-mail on clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbroad-pc.gov.uk

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Flower Power

THE annual parish best Hanging Basket/Tub competition was judged at the end of July, and although the warm late spring weather, followed by the cool dry summer did not help the situation, many of you managed to create some fine displays. An enjoyable evening was spent by several councillors who travelled the parish to find the best flower baskets/tubs and the eventual winners were awarded first second and third prizes of £25, £15 and £10.

All winners were notified and are listed on our website.

Talking of gardens, it is hoped you will agree that the new garden at the corner of the A38 and Braces Lane has established itself over the summer and is enhancing the area, and as mentioned previously further planting within the parish is planned for 2012.

Brighten up Christmas!

ONCE again we will be awarding prizes to residents who help create a bright and colourful Christmas for us all by decorating their windows with lights. On an evening during the run-up to Christmas several councillors will tour the parish and be on the look out for the most attractive window displays. The prize structure will be: £25 for first place, £15 for second place, and £15 for third place.

We are aware that many people put on superb displays of lights covering large areas of their homes and gardens, but we would like to stress that the prizes will be awarded for the best *window* displays in the opinion of the judging councillors.

Residents do not have to register for entry; just simply create a colourful window display that can be seen from the road during the dark evenings of the pre-Christmas period.

If you become aware of an attractive window display you can, if you wish, inform us, so that we can ensure that we do not miss it on the night of judging!

We hope more people than ever will enter into the spirit of this annual competition.

All winners will be notified and will be listed on the parish website.



Useful Numbers

Bromsgrove District Council: **01527 881288**

Out of hours emergency: **01527 871565**

Catshill and Marlbrook Local Policing Team

01527 583733 / 0300 333 3000

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

Contact Us

Gill Lungley, Clerk to the Council,
Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council,
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane,
Catshill, BROMSGROVE. B61 0JZ.

Telephone: **07813 671 899**

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