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Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

Newsletter Autumn 2012

Olympic Honour for Catshill Middle School Students

CHILDREN from Catshill Middle School helped form a Guard of Honour lining the route as athletes made their way through the Olympic Park into the Olympic Stadium, for the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in London on July 27th.



Staff members Mrs. Julie Pask and Mr. Dave Hewitt join the Catshill Middle School pupils proudly displaying their lanterns & banner at the Olympic opening ceremony in London.

The Catshill pupils were joined by 249 other schools from across the UK that made up the 2,000 student Guard of Honour.

The youngsters held lanterns and banners that they had created to support the Somalian team. For many of the athletes this Guard of Honour was their first experience of the London 2012 Games.

Catshill Middle School was selected for this prestigious event through the reward and recognition programme of the Get Set network (the official London 2012 education programme) because they had demonstrated a commitment to living the Olympic and Paralympic Values and for incorporating them into their school lives and curriculum.

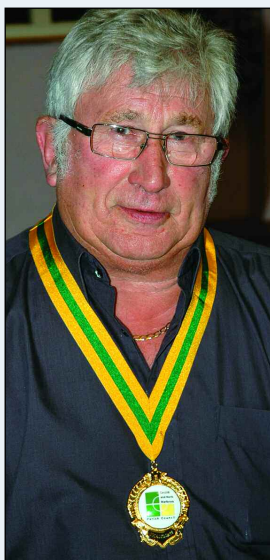
As well as having the opportunity to cheer on the world's best athletes and be part of that amazing global moment, the students also got the chance to tour the Olympic Park and see some of the London 2012 venues before the world turned its attention to Danny Boyle's wonderful Opening Ceremony in the Olympic Stadium.

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

A Message from the Chair

WE are coming to the end of quite an eventful year having enjoyed the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games held here in Great Britain. Our own community games held in June on the Catshill meadow proved to be a success for the community. We held a useful Village Showcase on Saturday 22nd September and will report in more detail in our next newsletter. We now have a few further events to look forward to including the annual firework display at the meadow on Saturday 3rd November and Remembrance Sunday on 11th November.

It looks like our community is due to increase in numbers with Bromsgrove District Council having granted permission for 80 new homes on land off Church Road and 16 new dwellings on land off Cobnall Road. In addition we have been notified of an application to build 8 new houses on land off Oak Road, using the site of unused garages. All of this will undoubtedly increase the traffic within the parish.



I am concerned about the crime related incidents that have occurred within the parish recently; if you see anything which seems suspicious then please contact our Community Support Officer Kirsten Bowkett using the local police number, contact details are below.

Adverse weather conditions over the summer caused difficulties for some residents who had to deal with flash flooding. It would appear that the culvert in Green Lane

cannot cope with the sheer volume of water on occasions such as we experienced at the end of June! However the North Worcestershire Water Management team are aware of the situation and we fully expect them to produce an appropriate scheme for tackling the problem in the future.

We are always keen to hear from you regarding any matter of community concern, so please contact us or attend any of our meetings which are always open to the public

Gordon Witcomb

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**

e-mail: clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

The Day the London 2012 Olympics Came to Catshill!

THE gun fired and 8 primed athletes set off down the track in search of glory. The final prize not a gold medal as offered in London but a certificate confirming their support of the Catshill Village Fun day and Community Games 2012.

This summer the village entered into the spirit of the Games and had an afternoon's fun competing in some more traditional sports such as egg and spoon race, three legged race and space hopper racing!

What you may ask was this all about? Well the annual fund day was being planned as usual by the North West Ward Association when they were approached to see if they were interested in combining the event with a celebration of the London 2012 Olympics. Equipment was available via lottery funding at a National level and the Parish and County Councillors provided some additional funding to support the event.

The weather was set fair for the morning and it was with great anticipation that we invited Helen Russell a locally born athlete to open the event. Helen went to Catshill Middle School and later went on to become 2012 European Sprint Duathlon Champion and 2011 World Sprint Duathlon Champion, Duathlon is a very demanding event involving a run – bike – run combination that tests competitor's stamina to the max.

Helen officially opened the event and as with previous years the clouds instantly opened with a torrential downpour that lasted 15 minutes! Not that this put the competitors and stall holders off.

There was an afternoon of fun and games on the Meadow culminating with a tug of war competition which was keenly fought as there was a pint of Tardebigge cider on offer for each member of the winning team.

Everyone who attended had a great day and



Ian and Karen Prust of the NWWA with Helen Russell at the Fun Day Opening.

the charities and societies that had stalls raised some valuable funding.

The organising committee would like to pass on thanks to all the people who volunteered to support the event both in the build-up and on the day. It would not happen without your support.

The NWWA will be following the same format next year so if you wish to help out or have a stall get in early and call Ian Prust on 07914116241 or ian.prust488@btinternet.com

School Changes Proposed

THE Governing Bodies at Catshill's First and Middle Schools are proposing to join forces to create a school federation. They have issued a joint consultation document to parents, carers, staff and other partners of the schools outlining their plans and asking for feedback. The consultation process runs for 6 weeks until 20th October and all comments are welcome.

To find out more please contact by e-mail to federation@catshill-middle.worcs.sch.uk or directly to the Governing Body at each school.

Your Parish Council at the Fun Day

SEVERAL members of your parish council were delighted to be part of the highly successful Fun Day in June. Although there was a rainstorm right at the start, the afternoon turned out sunny and dry, and this year's event was extra exciting providing something for all the family with the



Left to right: Cllr Malcolm Shephard, Cllr Alan Kelly and Cllr Paul Masters

inclusion of the community games that were inspired by London 2012. We believe that this extra element not only increased the numbers of people who attended, but also kept those who did attend at the event for longer than in recent years.

Once again we had our stall full of useful information where visitors could pop in for a chat to discuss local matters over a free cup of tea or coffee. We also took the opportunity to hand out some new leaflets that explain in more detail what we do.

When chatting to people at our stall and whilst wandering round the Meadow we were also able to introduce ourselves and check that those who lived within the parish have been receiving copies of this newsletter. Not only did everyone say that they had, but we received several welcome compliments, and some people said that they had only become aware of the Fun Day because they had read about it in our last newsletter.



We also sponsored the Drawing Competition that was open to local school children. All of the entries were put on display and the quality of artwork was very high. After much deliberation first prize was awarded to Lauren Barley, who is pictured with Cllr Peter Worthington who was part of the judging panel.

If you missed this year's event, please do try and join us next year.

Cllr Paul Masters.



Roy Hartle - Catshill's FA Cup Winner!

IN each edition we like to bring you a photograph from the past. This editions photograph is not of a place, but a person... Roy Hartle, FA Cup winner with Bolton Wanderers in 1958!



Three young Catshill gentlemen: Brian Manning, Roy Hartle and the late Jim Stephens.

Roy was born in Woodrow Lane Catshill on 4th October 1931, and went to school in the village, and also attended the Youth Club that was very active at the time. Roy would spend much of his childhood playing football with his friends on the old recreation ground playing field that is now the Lingfield Walk / Aintree Close area off Green Lane. After school he worked at local companies including a brief spell at the Austin motor works; but football was his passion.

He played for Worcestershire County, and was spotted by Bolton wanderer's scouts who saw him play against Staffordshire in a match played on the Bromsgrove Rovers pitch. Clearly impressed with the young player, the scouts went to his home that evening, and signed him right away as an amateur. Because he was not yet a full professional he also played for Bromsgrove Rovers, but then after his national service was completed in 1952 he became a full-time professional footballer

for Bolton Wanderers. By 1955 he was a first team regular as a full back; from then until 1965, he missed only 20 games for the club. At times he captained the side and although a tough defender, was never sent off in his entire career. His playing days with Bolton ended in 1966, having made 499 appearances and scoring 11 goals.

Roy's greatest sporting moment was in 1958 when he was an FA Cup winner when Bolton Wanderers beat Manchester United 2 – 0 in the Wembley final.

Roy was rewarded for his loyalty to Bolton with a testimonial in 1969, and to this day, in recognition, Bolton's Reebok Stadium has "The Roy Hartle Suite."

Sadly Roy has not enjoyed the best of health in recent years having suffered a stroke, but he is still fondly remembered not only by those who knew him from his younger days in Catshill but by thousands of Bolton Wanderers fans who regard him as true sporting hero. We wish him well.

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Environmental Improvements

THE Parish Council is keen to see the local environment look its best and would like to hear from you about any areas in need of care and attention. We can't promise to wave a wand and instantly improve the situation but we can seek to work with other agencies and volunteers to make a difference. We would welcome your views and will discuss them at future parish council meetings.

We like to keep in touch with residents to let you know what is being planned and that is why we produce this newsletter. Other forms of communication are by way of the website, our monthly meetings and the parish notice boards. We have one notice board in Marlbrook outside Tesco Express and the other is sited at the Ivy Cottage Garden but we wondered if we need to provide more throughout the parish and would welcome your thoughts on this. Please contact the clerk or any parish councillor.

Bonfire Night

Once again your parish council will be supporting the annual bonfire and firework display to be held on the Meadow.

This increasingly popular and exciting community event will be on the evening of **Saturday 3rd November** and we hope you, your family, and friends will be there.

Gates open 5.30pm - Bonfire lit 6.30pm - Fireworks 7.15pm

Adults £2 - Children £1 - under 5's FREE

Can you help?

Whilst the firework display is run by professionals, there are lots of other tasks that need to be done, such as helping to build the bonfire, marshalling, helping at the gates, and helping to clear up.

We would love to hear from any responsible adults who feel that they can help us make this year's event as successful as last years.

We will also welcome suitable material for the bonfire - nothing with metal - no mattresses etc, and it must not be delivered until the day of the bonfire - definitely no skips!

So if you feel you can help, or just want more information then phone
Carl Knowles on 07939 516833.

Saturday 3rd November

Make a Difference

ONside is a registered charity providing independent advocacy, mentoring and befriending to vulnerable adults facing disadvantage through mental and physical ill health, learning disability and old age, depression, dementia, autism, learning difficulties. We provide our service across Worcestershire and we are currently looking to train more volunteers from your local area.



Advocacy is a way of supporting and empowering people to ensure that they have their voice heard and their wishes made known to others and we are looking for volunteers to provide this support in their local area. It can involve just supporting someone to sort paperwork out or attending hospital appointments with someone.

Mentor & befriending volunteers are needed to provide a supportive and reliable relationship to people who would otherwise be socially isolated. Opportunities are also available for telephone befrienders and to support local groups which focus on gardening, art, walking and social activities. We also have our drop in service which provides help for people with Autism, along with one to one support for this project.

Onside's Volunteer Co-ordinator, Claire Watkins, said "Our volunteers provide the support and friendship required by the

members of our community who might otherwise be ignored. Our volunteers give their time, their passion and enthusiasm we need continued help from willing volunteers who would enjoy supporting adults in their local community."

Volunteering with Onside is a flexible commitment; as little as 2 hours a month can be given with full training and the option to work towards an Open College Network qualification offered.

Volunteers enjoy the flexible aspect of our work along with the chance to join in at our local social events we run for volunteers including quiz nights and coffee mornings. The comment that really sums it up came from one volunteers - "I seem to make a difference every time I visit, she laughs and I do, she had cheered up as she hadn't seen anyone else all week"

We are currently arranging our next training course and places are limited.

If you are interested in finding out more, or keen to get started please contact Claire on 01905 27525 or e-mail volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk.

Catshill Dance Centre

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New Councillors Wanted!

FOLLOWING a few changes in personnel on the parish council we are looking to co-opt 2 new members. Anyone over the age of 18 can apply for the role of parish councillor; you don't need to be party-political as the only qualifications required are that you live in the parish or within 3 miles of it, are included on the electoral register and have not been disqualified from standing for office for any reason. We would very much like to hear from the under-represented members of the community such as young people and women but will not rule out any applicant on the basis of age, gender, race or religion. Parish Councillors are required to attend monthly meetings and relevant committee meetings, usually held on Thursday evenings at Catshill Village Hall. If you would like to have your voice heard as a representative of your community then why not give it a go?

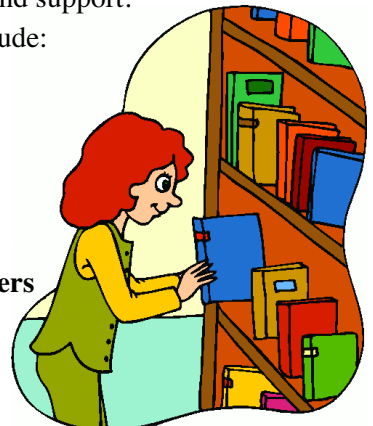
For further details please contact the Clerk or come along to our meetings on the last Thursday of every month (except August and December).

Catshill Library – The Future

WORCESTERSHIRE County Council has been seeking the views of residents on the future of Library services in Catshill as the existing library building in Barley Mow Lane is in a poor state of repair and will be expensive to refurbish to an acceptable standard. Other limitations such as inadequate parking facilities, the need to use staff from other library sites, the limited floor area in the library, which limits the quality and range of service and low user numbers, make the library unsustainable at its present location. A co-located part time library service to an existing building is a cost effective and more sustainable approach but would require volunteers to come forward from the community to help make it viable. Volunteers would be trained and supported by Bromsgrove Library staff providing professional advice and support.

It has been suggested that the new library offer could include:

- **Books and magazines**
- **A place to sit and read**
- **PCs and Internet access**
- **Community Centre Facilities**
- **Youth provision**
- **Bounce and Rhyme sessions for babies and toddlers**
- **Children's story time**
- **Readers groups**
- **Adult Learning Groups**



The public consultation ended on 14th September and we are now awaiting the results which will be presented at a feedback event on Wednesday 3rd October at Catshill Middle School, starting at 7pm.

New Garden

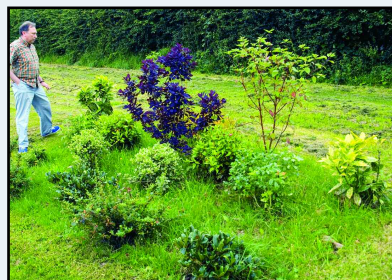
JUST as the last newsletter was about to be printed, the new garden at the junction of Barley Mow Lane and the Birmingham Road was planted. This now brings the total gardens maintained by the Parish Council (via a contractor) to three. They are:

1) The established **Ivy Gardens**; next to the Ivy Cottage pub, which has a mix of attractive shrub planting along with a raised railway sleeper bed which has formal bedding planting each year.

2) **The Diamond Jubilee Garden** on the corner of Braces Lane and the Birmingham Road which is now beautifully established and looking magnificent.

3) The new garden at the top of **Barley Mow Lane**. This is intended to be less formal garden, and takes the form of three circles of specially chosen shrubs that will, once fully established compliment the natural wild plants that are already in the centre of this grassy area. Although the majority of the new plants have grown over the summer, we are aware that a few have struggled, and may need replacing. Gardens of this type often have a way of recovering, but we will continue to monitor its progress.

We have no plans to create any further gardens at present, but we do hope you will continue to enjoy the three we have over the coming years.



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6th Bromsgrove Scout Group

HELLO.

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Conrad Palmer and I have been asked by the County Manager for Scouting to take on the voluntary role of Group Scout Leader (Group Manager) for 6th Bromsgrove Scout Group; a role that I have gladly accepted.

Even though the Scout Hut that is used by 6th Bromsgrove is in Catshill, the Group's catchment area is Bournheath, Catshill, Fairfield, Marlbrook, Wildmoor and the surrounding area.

I look forward to developing links with the community and, with the help of a team of volunteers, delivering Scouting's Everyday Adventure. Currently the Group provides an exciting developmental programme to girls and boys between the age of 8 years and 14 years (Cubs & Scouts) plus the Scout Hut is used by the District Scout Network Unit, 18 years – 25 years.

The Scout Group's current plan is a refurbishment of the Scout Hut and, once volunteers have been found, establishing a Beaver Scout Colony that will cater for boys and girls aged between 6 years and 8 years. Long term we are hoping to establish satellite units in local village halls.

Should you have any question or you wish to support/promote Scouting's programme of fun, challenge and adventure please do not hesitate to contact me.

Conrad Palmer,

Group Scout Leader,

6th Bromsgrove Scout Group.

10 Pepperwood Close Fairfield Bromsgrove Worcestershire B61 9ND

01527 833583 : conradpalmer@btinternet.com : www.scouts.org.uk



Best Floral Display Winners

WET as the summer was, many residents of Catshill and North Marlbrook did their best to produce some wonderful floral displays this year.

Representatives from the council spent an enjoyable evening touring the parish seeking out the best displays, and after much deliberation awarded prizes as follows:

1st 35 Woodbank Drive.

2nd 59 Cottage Lane.

3rd 79 Golden Cross Lane.

Congratulations to the winners, and thank you everyone that brightened up the community with colourful floral displays.

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Important Dates for Your Diary

Catshill Bonfire & Firework Display.

Saturday 3rd November – bring the whole family along to the exciting annual bonfire and firework display – Don't miss this popular event held on the Meadow. See page six.

Remembrance Sunday.

Sunday 11th November will see the annual Churches Together service in the Catshill Club, followed by a short act of remembrance at the war memorial.

Christmas Window Competition.

If you have an attractive festive display in a window of your property that can be seen from the road, then you could be in for a prize. As usual some of your parish councillors will be touring Catshill and North Marlbrook during December and will be awarding first second and third prizes for the best displays.

Don't forget that we can help publicise your events if they are within the parish or surrounding area on our website. Just contact the Clerk and give the details and we will post it on our What's On Diary.

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£6.99

12 PIECE CHICKEN

£10.99

6 PIECE BUCKET

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