

Delivered to 3000 Households

Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

Newsletter Autumn 2015

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CLERK

HELLO, my name is Rebekah Powell. I have recently taken over the role of Parish Clerk for Catshill & North Marlbrook. I previously worked as a Deputy Manager of a Day Nursery, but did not return to this job following standard Maternity Leave, in order to spend time with my Son. He is now 18 months old and I felt I wanted a new role that allowed me to continue to be at home with him, but give me something to do in addition to Mommy duties! I am very grateful to the Parish Council for allowing me this opportunity and am so far thoroughly enjoying my new role and all its challenges. I am currently on a very steep learning curve but have the support and mentoring of the previous Clerk, Gill, which is invaluable. I live locally and am passionate about supporting and maintaining

village communities, with my Husband also being a Parish Councillor for our home village of Romsley. I am available in the Parish Office Monday and Tuesdays from 11am-1pm and if you see me adding Agendas and notes to the notice boards, please do say 'hi' as I am slowly familiarising myself with the area and it's residents. I look forward to working with you all in the future and hope to play as active a part as possible at the upcoming community events. I'll hopefully see you there!



New clerk Rebekah Powell (right) presents a leaving gift to former clerk Gill Lungley

**BONFIRE &
FIREWORK DISPLAY**
on the Meadow
Saturday 31st October 2015

**Annual
Remembrance
Service**
Sunday 8th November 2015

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

REMEMBRANCE Day this year is on Sunday 8th November and it will be 97 years since the First World War ended at 11:00 a.m. on November 11th 1918.

As usual we will be commemorating this occasion and remembering those who died in the two world wars.

First there will be a combined Christian service organised by the Methodist, Baptist and Anglican churches at Catshill Social Club (formerly Catshill Workmen's Club) on the corner of Meadow Road and Stourbridge Road. **This will start at 10:00 a.m. and will finish with enough time for everybody to make their way across the road to the Memorial.**

The service at the Memorial commences at 10:45 a.m. and will include suitable hymns and prayers as well as a secular element of the reading of a poem by one of the youngsters in the Parish. The names of all the men will be read out and The Last Post will sound at 11:00 a.m. followed by the two-minutes silence.

After the service all attending are invited back to the Social Club for refreshments.

Recently the Memorial has been cleaned, the lettering of the names re-inked and the statue of the soldier painted. We are grateful to members of the Royal British Legion for funding this maintenance and the company of S. Bright & Sons of Sidemoor for carrying out the work. A short service of dedication will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday 25th October.

In the future, further work will be required on both the Memorial and the surrounding grounds and to pay for it, collection boxes will be left at the exit of the Social Club on 8th November should anybody wish to contribute.

In the Social Club, we will have on display the two volumes normally kept in a cabinet at Christ Church that contain details of the men whose names are on the Memorial. Anyone attending will be welcome to view these records. We are always interested in adding to this archive and would be grateful to hear from anybody who has further information particularly from any living relatives. There is an excellent web site at www.everymanremembered.org with details of all the fallen from the First World War where you can look up names and if you wish, add your own tribute.

Finally we always need help on the day particularly with stewarding and serving of refreshments. If you are able to help then please contact the Parish Council on **01527 873266** or email clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk.



Display in the former Waterstones shop in Bromsgrove

Whilst on the subject of the Remembrance Sunday, some of you may have noticed that the former Waterstones Book shop in Bromsgrove has a display that features scenes of the unveiling ceremony of the Catshill War Memorial from 2nd October 1927. It is hoped that we will feature some of these interesting photographs in a future edition of this newsletter.



THE Parish Council have been fortunate in securing the services of a new clerk; Rebekah Powell. Becky has a very hard act to follow as our previous clerk Gill Lungley was very well qualified and an excellent administrator. I am personally delighted with the professional approach that Becky has to her work. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and I am sure she will be a great asset to the Parish.

Parish Council meetings are interesting, constructive and can even be fun! Currently we are still two short of our full complement of 13 councillors, therefore, if you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact Becky as soon as possible. The only qualification required is a desire to assist in maintaining and

improving the community that you live in. Any training that you may require into the workings of the council will be given.

As usual we will be hosting our annual Bonfire and Fireworks display on Saturday 31st October on the village meadow. Please bring your friends and family for this exciting event. If you would like to be involved in helping with this event on the night, then please contact Becky who will be delighted to hear from you and explain what is required.

The following weekend, we have the annual Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November. As you will read in this edition of the newsletter, the memorial has recently been cleaned and the names more clearly defined. Our thanks go to a working party consisting of The British legion, and local volunteers. There will be a dedication service on the 25th October.

Please feel free to let us, via the clerk, have your comments as to the value of this parish magazine which is published three times per year. We are also always open to any ideas and contributions that you may have.

Finally, on behalf of your council, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy festive season, and I look forward writing to you again in our next edition, in early 2016.

***Owen Sweeting** – Chair of Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council.*

Clerk Availability in the Parish Office

PLEASE be aware that the attendance times of our new Clerk at the Parish Council office located within Catshill Village Hall have changed.

The new times are:

Monday and Tuesday 11am till 1pm

Parish Bonfire



IF you have anything *suitable* to be put on the parish bonfire, then please deliver your items to the Meadow on **Saturday Morning 31st October** so that the fire can be build ready for the evening event.

Common sense must prevail... no glass or toxic materials etc!

For your convenience there will be free parking on the Middle School playground opposite the Meadow for the bonfire and fireworks event.

It is important that visitors are aware that NO personal fireworks are allowed at the event for safety reasons. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Street Theatre

MONDAY 3rd August saw the return of Bromsgrove District Council's Street

Theatre to The Meadow in Catshill. Youngsters and adults alike enjoyed the fun which included entertainment from Bruce Airhead and his six-foot balloon, and Bernie Bennett-Hillbilly who performed a mix of comedy and tightrope walking.

This was the second year running that The Meadow has been used as a venue for Street Theatre and we hope that this popular free event continues to visit the parish in future years.



Cars For Sale



IN recent months we have become aware of a number of instances where cars have been parked on grass verges with "for Sale" signs on them. **If you see this being done, then please feel free to call Bromsgrove District Council's Environmental Services on 01527 881188** – they will log your complaint and send an Enforcement Officer to investigate. You do not need to do anything else yourself. Once the investigation has taken place you will be updated with details of what action is being taken.



'Constantly in the Pursuit of Excellence'

Join us on the journey

DUNCOMBES

01527 874526

Master Butchers

149 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove. B61 0JZ

Open: Tuesday - Friday 8.30am - 5pm - Saturday 8.30am - 4pm

Free Trees

YOU may have read that the Parish Council hope to enhance the area close to the new balancing pools in Catshill which help prevent flooding, by planting trees. Whilst some councillors have grown trees in pots ready for this, we have some very good news... The Woodland Trust has awarded the Parish Council a free "Woodland Trust Tree Pack" which will be delivered in early November. Planting will take place as soon as possible after delivery. All being well we will report on this in the spring edition of this newsletter.



WOODLAND TRUST

Get ready for your free trees



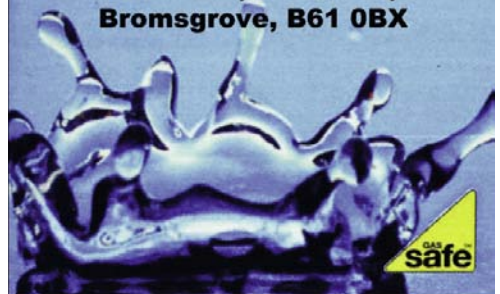
BP Services (UK) Ltd

Commercial & Domestic
Plumbing and Heating



01527 870600

**Unit 21 Wildmoor Mill Farm
Mill Lane, Wildmoor,
Bromsgrove, B61 0BX**



The OLD CLOCK SHOP

and the “lost” half crown

THE property now known as The Old Clock Shop in Meadow Road was built in 1926 as a home and **Post Office** for Hector Stokes and his wife. Hector became the Catshill Village Postmaster and remained so for many years.

The Post Office remained at this location until the 1950s when it was moved to a property just a little further down Meadow Road where it remained until its recent move into the Spar supermarket in Golden Cross Lane.



When the Post Office moved out of what is now the Old Clock Shop, it became a convenience store which was run by Mr and Mrs Sleep. It then became a dress shop which was run by Mrs Eve Tromans until the mid 1970s when Mr Ron Wood turned it into a jewellers / watch and clock makers.

Rod Healey joined Ron's business in the late 1970s before eventually buying it in the mid 1990s.

Rod knows many fascinating facts about the shop, and even has a pair of original scales and letter rack that were used there when it was the village post office. He also has an interesting tale of **Bobby Stokes and his lost half a crown...**

“Let's go back to 1940 when the Post Office (now The Old Clock Shop) in Meadow Road, Catshill was run by Mr. and Mrs. Stokes. They had two children; a son and daughter. One morning, a bag of shiny, bright new half crowns (2/6d) arrived, and as Mrs. Stokes was unpacking them, her little boy Bobby, jumped up and down asking his mother if he could have one. He played up until, defeated, Mrs Stokes gave him one of the coins. Triumphantly, Bobby ran upstairs to his room and lay on his bed, throwing his new coin into the air and catching it again. Suddenly it slipped off the bed and slid behind the skirting board. Bobby tried in vain to fish it out but never succeeded. It was lost forever under the floor boards!



Many years later Bobby, as an elderly gentleman returned to the shop (which was by now The Old Clock Shop) many times, and one day related his story to Rod (who now owns and runs the Old Clock Shop). He told Rod that if he were to ever pull the ceiling down (situated in the main front shop) to look out for his 2/6d.

Eventually, in 2007 renovation work began and the ceiling in the front shop was pulled down. As the work progressed something fell and hit the floor. It was Bobby's 1940 2/6d! The side that had been exposed was filthy, but the other side was still shiny.

Rod would have loved to have returned the unspent coin, but sadly Bobby had died some time before.



The OLD CLOCK SHOP

51-53 Meadow Road, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0JJ

01527 873422

**Specialising in the repair and restoration
of all types of clocks and watches.**

**Batteries fitted to all types of watches, straps
fitted and watch bracelets altered.**

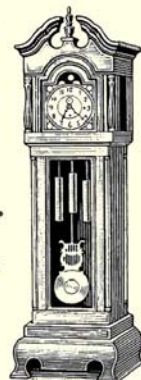
**Bracelet and case refurbishment services
i.e. cleaning and polishing on quality watches.**

**We also specialize in the repair and complete
restoration of antique and modern clocks.**

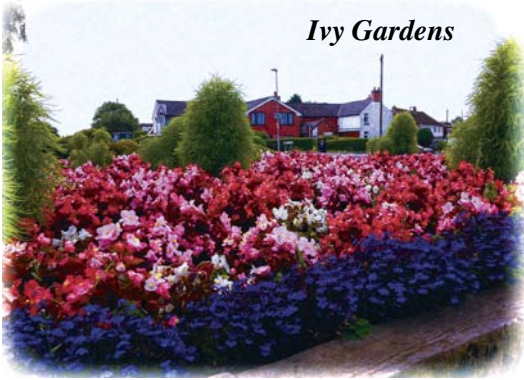
Free Estimates.

All service work guaranteed for 6 months

Opening times Mon, Tues Thurs, Fri 9-3 Sat 9.30-1 Wed-CLOSED



Ivy Gardens



Barley Mow Lane/A38 Garden



AS we often mention, your Parish Council maintains three garden areas within the parish. They are the **Ivy Gardens**, by the former Ivy Cottage public house (which is shortly to become a Co-Op store), The **Diamond Jubilee Garden** at the junction of Braces Lane and the A38, and the three rustic planted areas at the junction of **Barley Mow Lane and the A38**. All three gardens have looked especially beautiful this year and we can now give more details of the fourth garden we are about to create and maintain...

We have now secured a peppercorn rent agreement with the Baptist Church which will allow us to landscape, plant and maintain the corner where The Dock joins Barley Mow Lane/Gibb Lane, by the mini roundabout. This is an exciting project which will further enhance our community.

Diamond Jubilee Garden



We hope that by the next edition of this newsletter we will have started the work and will update you on the progress.

Site of new garden by The Dock





THE Parish Council has been committed to a policy for improving facilities for users of all transport systems, especially our local bus services. Over the last few years, we have been looking at the state of our bus shelters. So far we have replaced two existing shelters with new and better ones, and installed another where previously there had been none. Because we only have limited financial resources, this is an ongoing programme but we aim to install, refurbish or replace at least one new shelter each year.

We have already received correspondence, from some members of the parish, with suggestions for locations for new shelters, and, of course, several of your councillors have their ideas as to what they would like to see, but perhaps you have your own views about which shelter you think needs replacing or a bus stop, without a shelter, which is well used and needs one? Please contact us, by letter, email or telephone, with your ideas, we would love to hear them.

GOLDEN PLAICE

Fish & Chips

139 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

FRESH FISH Delivered DAILY

01527 876318

LUNCHTIME SPECIALS

Pies Kebabs & much more

Card Payments accepted

OPERATION Christmas Child is a charity organised by Samaritans Purse. The idea is simple... members of the



public pack Christmas gifts into shoeboxes that are then delivered to children in need in various parts of the world.



If you would like to donate then simply get an empty medium sized shoebox, wrap the lid

and box separately in colourful wrapping paper. Attach a label to the top of the box marking if your gift is for a boy or a girl, along with the age category 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 that it is appropriate for.

Add a 'wow' item such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump. Then fill the shoebox with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies.

Finally, deliver your shoebox(s) to an official collection depot. **This year Catshill Methodist Church Centre** is an official depot, and you can take your shoebox(s) there on:



Friday 6th November

Saturday 7th November

Friday 13th November

Saturday 14th November

Between 10am, and 12 Noon.

Full details of the scheme can be found at

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

Christmas Tree

ONCE again the Parish Council will be providing an illuminated Christmas tree outside Catshill village hall, and, as usual we will also illuminate the war memorial over the Christmas period. We hope that this will help brighten everyone's Christmas especially those using the local shops, restaurants and businesses.



COFFEE at CMCC is a coffee bar which is open at Catshill Methodist Church Centre every Friday and Saturday between 10 and 12 noon. It is open to everyone who wants to meet and chat and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, and any donations taken are given to various charities both local and national.

As part of the Churches Christmas celebrations we are having an informal mince pies and carols around the piano on Saturday December 19th from 10am.

Why not start your Christmas celebrations by joining us, you will be very welcome.



New Parish Council Website

OVER many years much useful information has been made available to you via our website www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

However, we are aware that our existing site is now looking rather dated. Therefore we are pleased to announce that shortly, the Parish website will be totally updated with a new modern look and feel. It will also be mobile phone compatible making it even easier for you to access. We are delighted to be working with local company SMIS (South Midlands Internet Services) to achieve this improvement.



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

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Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council,
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane,
Catshill, BROMSGROVE. B61 0JZ.
Tel: **01527 873266** - Mob: **07813 671899**
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www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk



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Published by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council



Catshill Bonfire

**The Meadow
Meadow Road
Catshill**

**Saturday
31st
October**

**Adults £2 Children £1
Under 5's FREE**

**Free
Parking**
at Catshill
Middle School

In association with



**Gates open 6.00pm Bonfire lit 6.30pm
Fireworks 7.15pm**

Any person carrying alcohol or appearing to be intoxicated will not be allowed entry.
No personal fireworks or sparklers are allowed to be brought onto site.