

Delivered to 3000 Households

Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

Newsletter Autumn 2016



ON June 11th at Catshill Village Hall the Queen's 90th birthday was celebrated with an afternoon Tea Party. The cakes were homemade and went down very well. The music was provided by one of the Village Hall Trustees running a disco. The music was stirring, patriotic and reflective of a bygone era.

There were DVDs of the Queen's life and reign showing on a big screen during the afternoon.

The atmosphere and chatter was indicative of a jolly good time being enjoyed by the many who attended.

Catshill Village Hall management Committee hosted the occasion supported by a generous donation from Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council. Thanks, also, to the local Co-Op for providing the ingredients for tea, coffee and an element of the cakes.

Annual Remembrance Service

Sunday 13th November 2016

Service at the Social Club 10:00am-10:30am
Memorial Service at War Memorial site 10:40am
with a view to a two-minute silence at 11:00am

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Join Us For Christmas Dinner



DON'T be alone at Christmas! We need you to join us for Christmas Dinner.

Are you over 60 and alone or isolated from your friends or family over Christmas? If you are, please come and join us for festive fun, Christmas dinner and live entertainment. It doesn't cost you anything and all you have to do is fill out the form you will find in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you on 21st December at Catshill Village Hall.

Alternatively, do you know of anyone who fits the above criteria, that you feel would benefit from an event that allows them to socialise and enjoy some Christmas spirit? If so, please use the form enclosed in this newsletter to nominate someone to attend. Help us to access those who are most in need during the festive season.

Catshill FC

"CATSHILL FC, Football for kids" that's what it says on the banner next to the Middle School gates, but how many of us know what is happening on the school field every weekend.

Would it surprise you to discover that not all children are on their computer games all weekend, and that boys and girls still love running around chasing a ball just as much as we did in the good old days.

Every Saturday morning over 100 boys and girls train, play football and just have fun in a safe environment. The coaches have FA level 1 or level 2 qualifications and are all volunteers. On Sundays you will find all the same children running around in hopefully a more organised fashion as they play their matches.

Their ages range from 5 to 15 years old and to be honest up to now it's been mainly boys, but I read somewhere that girls football is the fastest growing sport in the country and this is true at Catshill FC where girls are showing a real interest and increasing in numbers every week.

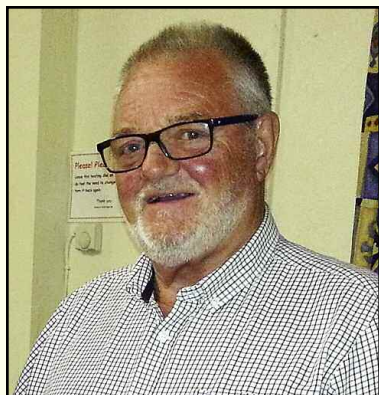
We also play matches on the Meadow and are very much a community club; we are very proud of the fact we represent Catshill.

Over the last few seasons we have made a real effort to improve all aspects of the club and a couple of seasons ago we achieved the FA Charter Standard. Everyone at the club worked hard for this and as Chairman I did not think I could be more pleased, so you can imagine how we all felt at the end of last season when we were voted the top Charter Standard club for the whole of the South West of England (which includes Cornwall in the South right up to Shropshire & Birmingham in the North) and put forward to represent Worcestershire at the West Midland regional finals against the top teams from Birmingham and Herefordshire.

Little old Catshill; what chance did we have against these mighty teams? Well, people of the village, hold your heads high - we won the award of top club in the region, and we are all proud to represent you.

A Message from the Chair

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HELLO Again.

Well, I guess it is Autumn and when walking my dog around the village I can see the evidence of the work carried out by our Lengthsman and Litter Picker, coupled with the efforts of Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire County Council.

The wildlife that is now visiting our balancing pools and the fields surrounding the Parish make for a pleasant stroll. There is a wide variety of birds to witness if you are vigilant.

We are all working towards making Catshill a good place to live and be brought up in.

To this end your Parish Council is sponsoring a Neighbourhood Planning Team that is rapidly developing into a comprehensive, knowledgeable unit which will shortly, with your assistance and input, produce a plan for our Parish together for the perusal of all prior to a Parish referendum. There is a new Web Page giving news on this available at www.catshillandnorthmarlbrookplan.org.uk with an additional link from the Parish Council Web Site.

The Gardens that we upkeep are doing well with the possible exception of the one at the Baptist Church. We will work to ensure that this one also comes up to our established standard.

Concerns about traffic and parking are regular issues brought to our attention, a problem that is very difficult to address. However, for those of you that feel the need to park on the footpath please be aware that you must by law leave room for a wheel chair to pass without going onto the road. We will continue to work to achieve the best practical solution to these problems.

We have erected a new bus shelter at the top of Golden Cross Lane on the A38. It is with some disappointment that I notice the need some individuals have in scraping the paint off and generally defacing the other shelters recently erected in the Parish.

Your Council is very involved in the arrangements for the Armistice Day commemorations and also the Bonfire Night on the Village Meadow, followed by the Christmas Dinner for those that may not otherwise have one; this is to be held in the Village Hall.

We still have a vacancy on the council to make up our total complement of thirteen. If you feel you would like to get involved please contact our Clerk, Becky, who will convince you that you are making the correct decision.

You may wish to work in the sub committees of Finance and Staffing, Environment and Highways, or Planning. If you feel able to help, why not get involved?

I would like to express my gratitude to the District Councillors and County Councillor for their regular attendance and valued contributions to our Monthly Full Parish Council meetings.

Owen

Bus Shelters



THE Parish Council are, as you may be aware, involved in a rolling programme of maintenance, repair and replacement of bus shelters within Catshill and North Marlbrook. Following application for monies from the New Homes Bonus Grant 2015/16, the Council were successful in obtaining £3500 towards the purchase and installation of a new shelter. It was decided that the one situated outside the Miu Miu restaurant on the A38 was in dire need of attention and therefore on 4th and 5th August 2016 a new shelter was erected in this location. The photographs show the site



before and after the installation and we are pleased that this well used stop is now a far more pleasant space for people who are using the public transport system.

Parish Gardens in Catshill

IT has been a fairly dry summer this year, as a result of which I have spent a considerable length of time watering the bedding display in the Ivy Cottage Gardens, during July and August. This turned out to be a much more pleasant task than anticipated; there was a constant flow of members of the Parish passing by, pausing to admire the display and they all had time to stop and have a chat. They all told me how much they enjoyed the gardens and appreciated the wonderful display. This is the third year that we have



contracted the award winning Rednal Nursery, Birmingham parks Department, to plant the garden. The most recent awards include Gold at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2016, and Gold in the Britain in Bloom competition in 2014 and 2015.

Over the years, the Parish Council has had a policy of installing new gardens in strategic locations and carrying out extensive bulb planting and tree planting, throughout the Parish, to enhance the environment. In addition to the Ivy Cottage Gardens, the two gardens on the A38 - at the junction with Braces Lane and the one adjacent to the new cemetery - are now well established and providing a good display. The new garden on the corner by the Baptist Church, now in its first year, has been more problematic. Difficulties with watering, weed control and vandalism, has resulted in a very shabby appearance; however, we intend to address these problems and are confident that this garden will achieve its full potential within the next couple of years.

Well, summer is now over but we are already planning for next year!

Cllr M Shephard

From Our Past

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IN this edition, just like the last, we have a “*now and then*” theme. Last time we had photographs of the old Ivy Cottage and the new Co-Operative store highlighting how things change, yet still look familiar. This time we are delighted to have an old photograph of the dairy that was situated opposite the War Memorial in Meadow Road. It was taken by the late Dr Jack in the late 1960’s/early 1970’s. Next to it we have a photograph taken by Mr. Martin Wells, showing the dwellings that are now situated where the dairy used to be. This time the change from old to new is more dramatic! If you have any interesting old photographs of the Parish that you would like to share, then please let us know.

Cllr Paul Masters.

Flood Alleviation Balancing Ponds



SEVERAL editions of this newsletter over the years have had features about the flooding problems in Catshill, especially the problems experienced in the Green Lane area. As a temporary measure the Parish Council funded a small hut to house sandbags that local residents could have easy access to in times of

flooding. However, more recently new balancing ponds have been constructed to the side of the Horse Course playing field, a little upstream from the flood areas. The good news is that according to local residents these balancing pools are working well and preventing flooding. This photograph was taken from the footpath that runs next to the ponds. Due to the ponds being fenced off, this area has become a mini wildlife area, and is most attractive. Let’s hope that the sandbags are never needed again.

Great Oaks From Little Acorns Grow



AS was reported in the previous edition of this newsletter, the Parish Council obtained saplings from the Woodland Trust Free Tree programme last year, which were planted near the new balancing ponds in Catshill.

Tree planting has continued this year; this time a small oak grown from an acorn that had dropped from a local tree, was planted near the balancing ponds. It will be interesting to track its progress over the coming months and years to see if this particular little acorn turns into a great oak.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

YOU may remember that the Parish Council recently announced that it was looking for support from the local community to assist in the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan. We are pleased to report that a number of local residents did come forward and have now joined a '*Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*', which also includes four members of the Parish Council.

At a recent meeting of the Steering Group Dr Chris Fabray was elected Chair and Paul Fisher Vice Chair. A small working group has now been established to identify opportunities for involving the wider community in the design of the Neighbourhood Plan and a possible timeline and Project Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led planning framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. It will form part of the statutory development plan for the area and provide the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop.

Communities are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be meeting once a month. If you feel that you would like to get actively involved with the Steering Group please register your interest with the Parish Clerk'.

Bank Holiday Car Boot Fun

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THE mixture of good weather, along with a Bank Holiday, meant that the Car Boot held on the Meadow on Monday 29th August was a huge success. A good crowd turned up in search of bargains and the large number of stalls meant that they were not disappointed. Once again it shows what an important community venue the Meadow is and we look forward to seeing you there on November 5th for the annual Bonfire and Fireworks display.

Catshill Village Hall

WHAT a busy time for the Trustees and Management Committee of your Village Hall. Our long serving Hall Manager Loraine Cook found the need to resign due to a change in her work environment and her increased family commitments.

Invaluably she is staying around to help and mentor our new Hall Manager Claire Wing as Claire settles into this very varied and busy task.

Loraine will continue to be a valued member of the Management and Trustees team.

It is prudent to remind ourselves that the Hall is a Charity and is owned by the Village and totally run by volunteers.

We are always looking for new people to join the team.

Especially at the time when the hard working partnership of Mike and Margaret Millward have found the need to retire due to Mikes ill health.

Many thanks go out to them for all of the hard work put into the village over the years.

The Ladies toilets and baby changing areas at the Hall are having a complete refurbishment.

Our thanks go out to District Councillor Helen Jones (Catshill North) and to (Shirley Webb (Catshill South) for their invaluable help and sponsorship in generating this money.

Thanks also go out to trustees Andrew and Gill Bate for their hard work in administering and progressing the project.

I am delighted to report that the Hall is going from strength to strength and that it is being used by a wide variety of users.

Visit our web site, enjoy your Village Hall, and please think about getting involved in the running of the establishment.

Owen

Introducing the Baptist Church's New Minister



IN April this year, Catshill Baptist Church appointed a new Minister after having been without one for almost three years. Rev Simon Gudger, his wife Louise, their twin boys, Luke and Ben, and daughter Faith, made the short journey from Kidderminster Baptist Church where they had been since 2006.

“It wasn’t that we necessarily wanted to leave Kidderminster”, Simon told us, “We had some wonderful years there, but we just felt that it was time for us to move on and to hand over that church to somebody new. And so we began the process of looking for a new church with no idea where we would end up.”

The Baptist system of moving on Ministers is a bit like a dating agency where churches that are looking for a new Minister are ‘paired up’ with potential ones. They meet together over several weekends and if they still like each other at the end of it all, a match is made!

“Catshill was the first place that we looked at”, Simon revealed. “And, a bit like buying a house, it was obvious when we came here that this was going to be the place for us – even though it was just down the road! We love both the church, and the village life. It’s similar to where both myself and Louise grew up in Leicestershire, and we knew that it would be a good place for the children to be too.”

Simon is a keen Leicester City fan and has also been a football referee for the last 20 years both at a local and national level. Louise continues to travel back to Kidderminster each week where she is a Primary School teacher. They are both keen musicians and have been able to expand the existing group within the church each Sunday.

The Baptist Church is shortly to undergo some major changes here in the village which will mean them relocating their congregation to the Social Club later this Autumn. The old church hall, which is over 100 years old, is to be knocked down and rebuilt with a much more modern two-storey community building with two good sized meeting rooms, a larger hall, new kitchen facilities, along with more office and storage space. Naturally this is something Simon is excited about.

“My vision when I came here, was very much about raising the profile of the church within this community. We are much more than simply a gathering on a Sunday morning, and this new building will offer more scope for us to be part of the community and for the village to be connected to us too. Not only that, but maybe our move to the Social Club later this year will give the chance for people, who might be put off coming into a church building, to share with us in a different setting – who knows, maybe a Carol Service in the Social Club this year might just be your thing!”

Catshill Baptist Church has a gathering of around 150 people of all ages meeting each Sunday at 10.30am with separate activities provided for children and youth. Look out for their temporary relocation and new building beginning later this year.

www.catshillbaptist.org.uk **01527 576006**

WELCOME HALL

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

www.welcomehallchurch.org

Sunday School



Sundays 2:15 - 3:00pm

Ages 3 to teens. Free Transport.

Singing and Bible Stories. Exciting midweek activities (games, sports, crafts and cooking) if you come on Sundays.

Gospel Service



Sundays 6:00 - 7:00pm

All welcome - crèche for under 7s.

Traditional hymns and a beginner-friendly Bible message.

Coffee Morning



Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30am

All welcome. Free of charge.

Proper coffee and good company followed by a brief Bible talk.

Mums & Toddlers



Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:00pm

All welcome. Free of charge.

Toys, crafts, singing, and Bible stories. Term time only.

M5 J4



34 Woodrow Lane, Catshill,
Bromsgrove B61 0PU



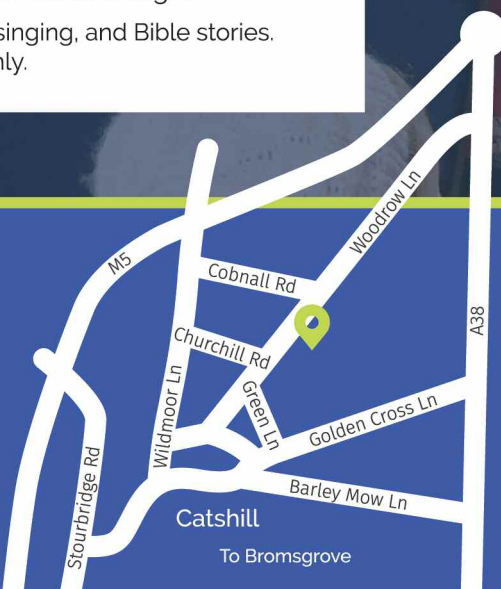
office@welcomehallchurch.org



www.welcomehallchurch.org



Pastor Jeremy Brooks:
01527 758609



Catshill War Memorial

EARLIER this year Mr. Andrew Bate was appointed War Memorial Co-ordinator to oversee the many aspects regarding the War Memorial. The trees surrounding the Memorial are now in a less hazardous condition thanks to some timely pruning.

The Parish Council continues to provide the maintenance of the Memorial. Andrew has successfully been able to get the Memorial accepted as a Grade II listed monument. This has a number of benefits and responsibilities. (See *EnglishHeritage.com*) Andrew has obtained a DVD of the unveiling ceremony of the Memorial which can be seen on Remembrance Sunday at the Club before and after the service.



*The War Memorial Unveiling and Dedication.
October 2nd 1927.*

The Memorial site is not listed with the Land Registry as belonging to anyone at present. Andrew and Owen Sweeting (Parish Council Chairman) are endeavoring to get the Land Registry to accept our claim to the site on behalf of the Parish Council.

Summer Reading Challenge

THE Parish Council again this year sponsored The Summer Reading Challenge. This was held at the Library located at Catshill Middle School and, as before, was organised by Pat Tansell of the County Library Service.

To complete the challenge youngsters had to read six books during the Summer Holidays. Having done that they then received a medal and a certificate. These were given out by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Owen Sweeting at a ceremony held on Saturday 1st October.

This year's challenge was Roald Dahl themed to celebrate what would have been the author's 100th birthday.

Before the medals and certificates were awarded, those attending were entertained by Suzi Budd, aka Suzi Snozzberry, who did an interactive presentation based on the ever-popular author's well-loved books including this year's favourite, the BFG. As well as a quiz on Dahl's books, children were asked to put their dreams in jar so the Suzi could turn them into a story.

Twenty children received their awards on the morning whilst around another dozen who were unable to attend will have their prizes sent on to them.

Suzi can be contacted via her web site www.suzibudd.com



Walks & Footpaths

OVER the past few years as I have walked around our Parish and surrounding area, I have been surprised by the number of footpaths that I have never walked or didn't even know existed. I thought, therefore, that I would share with you a couple of photographs taken this summer that show some of the wonderful views that are just a matter of yards from our front doors. The first is of one of the footpaths behind the cemetery in Barley Mow Lane Catshill, and the other is of a field off Linehouse Lane Marlbrook. I hope you agree that these photographs show what a beautiful area we live in.

Perhaps you have an interesting photograph of our area that you would like to share. If so then please let us know.

Cllr Paul Masters.



Street Theatre Returns

For the third year running, Bromsgrove District Council's Street Theatre came to Catshill.

On Monday 1st August, the Meadow became the venue for "Blunderfudge" who, with a collection of crazy props and hilarious timing, attempted to become the world's greatest daredevil showman! A great time was had by all, so let's hope that the Street Theatre returns to the Parish next year.



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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Published by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council



Catshill Bonfire

**The Meadow
Meadow Road
Catshill**

**Saturday 5th
November**

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

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.

**Free
Parking**
at Catshill
Middle School