

## **Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2011**

Delivered to 3000 households

### **Chairman's Welcome**

We are into a new year and it looks as if we shall have to tighten our belts; with less money available we shall have to be more self-reliant. This gives us all the opportunity to help our neighbours.

Voting takes place in May for your district and parish councillors and at the same time you will be able to take part in the referendum on changes to the voting system, so mark Election and Referendum Day in your diary now, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Information on postal and proxy votes is available from the district council and if you want to find out more about how to become a parish councillor please contact the clerk to the council, by e-mail, telephone or letter.



The parish council is considering a number of projects this coming year including a new garden feature at the corner of Braces Lane and the Birmingham Road, more replacement bus shelters and the re-launch of the Catshill Music Festival, which was at one time quite famous. With the success of the firework display and bonfire last year, the parish council will be supporting it again with the scouts and the North West Ward Association. All organisations hope for your continued support.

Remembrance Sunday last November was well attended. It is heartening to see the numbers rising each year and I thank you for your support. This year marks the 90th birthday of The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and once again your support will be greatly appreciated. Many events will be taking place locally and nationally throughout the year.

*Cllr Gordon Witcomb*

## Catshill Library

### Space Hop 2010.

Sixty-seven children aged between 4 and 12 years took part in an exciting national reading challenge last summer at the Catshill library in Barley Mow Lane. The reading challenge, set by the Reading Agency, was to read 6 or more books, fiction or non-fiction, during the summer holiday. Those taking part had to help the crew of the spaceship "Ex-Libris" in its mission to set up the first library on the moon. A total of 39 children completed the challenge and many of these were presented with a medal, prizes and a certificate at the special award ceremony held in the library. The awards were presented by parish councillors Gordon Witcomb and Alan Kelly, local CSO Kirsten Bowkett, and Kerry Cullen and Sara Townsend from the new Tulip Tree Children's Centre in Gibb Lane. Prizes were also awarded to the winner and runners-up in the Space Hop colouring competition where the children had to create a picture of themselves as a crew member of the Ex-Libris spaceship. Library staff were delighted with the number and enthusiasm of the children taking part and completing the challenge and look forward to seeing even more participating this year.

For more information on events and activities at Catshill library please call into the library in Barley Mow Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0LP.

The opening hours are:  
Monday 3.00pm - 8.00pm  
Wednesday 2.30pm - 5.30pm  
Friday 2.30pm - 5.30pm  
Saturday 9.30am - 1pm; 2pm - 5.30pm  
Telephone 01905 822722  
or you can visit the website at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)



Pictured above from left to right are Theo and Sammy Summers and Olivia and Jessica Marshall with their medals, certificates and prizes for completing the 2010 Space Hop Summer Reading Challenge at Catshill Library.

### Play area opens

The new play area off Shelley Close was officially opened on 16<sup>th</sup> February. This area, provided by Bromsgrove District Council for middle-school aged children, was built after consultation with the youth from the community. It includes a double zip wire, an aero-skate, a large slide and a 1.8M spinning disk; the surrounding area has also been landscaped. The project was partly funded by the government's Playbuilder scheme. The picture below was taken at the official opening.



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

**Friday 18th March and Friday 1st April.** Census advisers will be available at Citizens Advice Bureau in Bromsgrove between 9.30 and 3 pm

**Sunday 27th March** Census day.

**Thursday 7th April** Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30pm in Catshill Village Hall.

**Thursday 5th May** Voting for district & parish councillors and voting referendum

**Thursday 19th May** Annual Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm

**Saturday 18th June** Catshill Fun Day, to be held on The Meadow, Catshill.

The parish council usually meets at 7.30pm in Catshill Village Hall on the last Thursday of each month, but not May (this year only), August or December. All residents are welcome.

### Catshill Music Festival

This year's Catshill Musical Festival will consist of a variety of musical events and performances during the period of 24th June to 10th July. If you are planning to hold an event during this period, or would like to, please contact the clerk and your details will be added to the programme. Full details will appear in the next issue of the newsletter. A brass band is booked as part of the Royal British Legion's 90th Anniversary Year Celebrations and County Rally on 2nd July and a musical evening is to be hosted by the M & C Friendship Club.

### USEFUL NUMBERS

Bromsgrove District Council: 01527 881288  
Out of hours emergency: 01527 871565

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

### CONTACT US

Write to the Parish Council:  
Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council  
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane  
Catshill, BROMSGROVE  
B61 0JZ

Telephone: 07813 671 899

[clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk)

## Parish Council vs Parochial Church

Thanks to the "Vicar of Dibley", the image of parish councils leaves a lot to be desired. However, it is a sitcom and plenty of aspects of life are lampooned and often wildly exaggerated in a similar manner. The only problem with this comedy series is that the body they are lampooning is not the parish council but the Parochial Church Council. This fact has been pointed out to the BBC on numerous occasions but it continues to call up sketches of the Vicar of Dibley to supposedly illustrate to the population at large what parish councils do and more annoyingly how they are run. Perhaps the use of 'community' or 'village' would be a far better title to avoid any confusion!

In the past parish councils were responsible for Church of England affairs but that was over one hundred years ago. Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council, which was established only 17 years ago, has nothing to do with Christ Church or indeed any of the other churches in the parish.

We would be interested to hear what you think of our name — does it confuse you? Can you suggest an alternative?

**FLOOR MASTER**  
CARPET VINYL WOOD LAMINATE

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**COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC**  
SUPPLIERS AND FITTERS

ALL FLOOR PREPARATION WORK  
UNDERTAKEN

**CATSHILL BASED**  
07575 610182 Chris Jennings  
floormaster@live.co.uk

## Where is Catshill?

When asked from where do I come, I usually reply that I am from a semi rural village situated in Worcestershire that is approximately half way between the cities of Birmingham and Worcester. However, I have always felt that our parish associates far more with Worcester than with the city of Birmingham, which is very different culturally. The village is *geographically* closer to Birmingham than to Worcester according to the milestone situated on the A38 opposite the Mui Mui take away. If you have not looked at it, let me tell you that it clearly states "Worcester 15 miles, Birmingham 11 miles". So there we have it, we are 4 miles closer to Birmingham than to Worcester! Next time you look at this milestone, please note how smart it looks. This is because a member of the Milestone Society cleaned and repainted it last year. The parish council gave a small donation to the society in recognition of its hard work.

If you have ever wondered what milestones are, you may be interested in reading about their history at [www.milestonesociety.co.uk](http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk). It is a fascinating website with many photographs and explanations of the origins of milestones, some of which date back to Roman times. It also informs how many were removed during the Second World War, in a bid to confuse any invading armies. Thankfully, most were reinstated after the war.

Cllr Paul Masters.

## Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Plan Group

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Parish Plan is a document used as the framework for the development and continued sustainability of the parish. The community's strengths and weaknesses are identified in the plan giving us all the opportunity to propose improvements and work with a variety of stakeholders to ensure positive, acceptable progress which will help us control our local quality of life. The aim is for the plan to eventually be adopted by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council and Bromsgrove District Council as an important strategy document for the parish. At the moment the Parish Plan Group consists of a handful of parish councillors who are revising the draft plan produced 4 years ago. However it is important to include a wider mix of representatives from the community and other local organisations as well as parish councillors to ensure the agreed actions are put into place. Volunteers are therefore needed to join this group to help meet the Parish Plan objectives. If you have an interest in the future development of our locality and would like to make a positive contribution, please contact :-  
Frank R Cook, Chairman, Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Plan Group.  
01527 874360 or e-mail [spoilbroth@btinternet.com](mailto:spoilbroth@btinternet.com)



**244 Stourbridge Road, Catshill. 01527 878 030**

<p><b>New 2 4 1 menu</b> <b>Coming soon.</b> <b>All day, everyday</b></p>	<p><b>Recently</b> <b>refurbished</b> <b>Lounge &amp; bar</b></p>	<p><b>Free Wi Fi</b> <b>Cask Ales</b> <b>Live Sports</b></p>
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**Large beer garden**  
**With kids play area.**

**Tuesday Quiz night**  
**Big cash prizes.**  
**Come back to your local.**

## The Bromsgrove Lecture

The Bromsgrove Society Lecture for 2011 will be held on Wednesday 13th April at 7.30pm at the Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School (Worcester Road entrance) where the subject will be "A Bishop and his Books". It will tell the story of Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester, who in 1782/3 built a library at Hartlebury Castle to house his very fine collection of books, which have been maintained there ever since.

The speaker will be Chris Penney, who has been the honorary librarian for The Hurd Library since 2009. Chris spent the majority of her career in the Special Collections Department of The University of Birmingham's Library, and has also worked for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Library.

Tickets costing £5.00 are available from Waterstones and Foto Factory in Bromsgrove High Street or Des Clarke: 0121 453 3034, or Isobel Jarrett: 0121 453 2100.

## Louise's Mobile Massage Therapy

Treatments tailored to your needs.

## Local Service

### Relaxation

Relaxing you is the only aim! For this reason it is one of the most complete and indulgent massages you can have. A more gentle style of massage designed to improve circulation and leave you with a sense of well-being. This is the massage to choose if you just want to be pampered and spoiled.

## Bright Lights

Several parish councillors spent an enjoyable pre-Christmas snowy evening touring Catshill and North Marlbrook in order to judge the best Christmas Lights competition. The judges were delighted with the wonderful display of colour for the festive period provided by parishioners. From the many vibrant and artistic displays the top 3 were selected as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: 82 Cobnall Road.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 77 Cobnall Road.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: 3 Tall Trees.

Well done to everyone who put up lights whether a winner or not, as your efforts are

## Summer Flower Competition.

Every year the parish council seeks out 3 hard-working gardeners who have clearly been making an effort to brighten up the community with plants and flowers.

The task facing this year's judges will be to track down the most attractive flowering container or flower bed, which must be visible from the road. Judges will tour the parish during the last week of July before awarding the prizes of gardening vouchers to the value of £25, £15 and £10. If you would like to nominate a friend or neighbour who you think has the potential to be a worthy winner, please contact the clerk.

### Remedial

This is a deep tissue massage that efficiently heals injuries. It is especially effective for treating those muscular aches and pains. Remedial massage will help to remedy any tension and encourage complete healing.

### Sports.

The main aim of this treatment is to prevent injury. It improves the efficiency of your muscles and so enhances your performance. Sports massage has a great potential in this area and this is why many top competitors use it as an integral part of their training regime. With regular treatment you are more able to sustain high levels of performance without getting injured.

60 minutes treatment for £35

Louise Lewis. (MHFST)

07833 75 75 04

## Bus Stops



Many readers, especially those who use public transport may have noticed that last year two new modern clean bus shelters appeared within the parish. One replaced the rather dilapidated shelter located on the Stourbridge Road between the War Memorial and the Crown Inn, and a smaller one was sited near the mini roundabout at the junction of Gibb Lane, Meadow Road and Wildmoor Lane.

Both these new shelters were paid for by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council and the council is confident that they are being appreciated by all who use them.

The original concrete Stourbridge Road shelter was in a very poor condition and whilst in times past it had been a fine structure, by 2010 it was in a sorry state, cracked and badly damaged by wear and tear, suffering from several waves of poor repair work and generally looking ugly, overgrown and uncared for, right at the "entrance" to Catshill village.

The bus stop at the mini roundabout is very well used but had no shelter, meaning bus passengers were exposed to the elements.

The parish council decided that by installing new shelters then bus use would be encouraged and the experience of using local public transport could be enhanced, benefiting us all by helping to reduce the amount of traffic on our roads whilst promoting a healthier and greener future.

Also the parish council realises that as our ageing population increases then the demand for appropriate and comfortable public transport will rise.

The parish council will continue to maintain these new structures and will consider adding further shelters in the future, either by funding them outright or by lobbying other agencies to add, repair and replace as and when necessary. The parish council is hopeful that all residents are proud of these new shelters and will agree that they are enhancing parish life.

For your convenience, the "Local Information" page of the parish council's website includes a link for accessing the bus timetables.

