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Parish Council

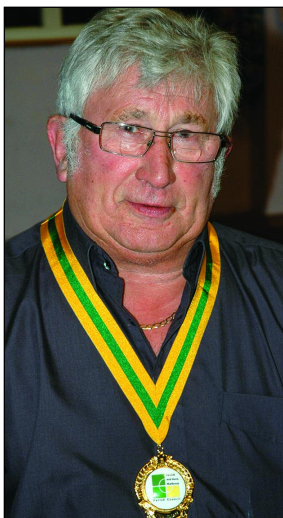
Newsletter Spring 2012

A Message from the Chair

We start another year with the controversial development of land off Church Road which for many years has been used only by our natural fauna and flora and for informal recreation such as dog walking. We are not sure yet how many houses will be accommodated on the site but planning permission has been granted for 'up to 80 residential units'. At the moment the developers are clearing the land before the start of the nesting season and they have yet to submit detailed information about the style of housing and where it will go.

With new government legislation on the Localism Act, it is possible that the parish council will be involved in the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. This will give the parish council, and you, a bigger say on planning matters within the parish so we hope you will come forward with your views.

This year it looks as if the Catshill Music Festival is generating wider interest with



more venues lined up, so please support these events between 16th -31st March.

The council are always looking for ideas to promote the parish so if you have any suggestions do send them to us. One topic we are looking into is to record the history of the parish; if you have anything that could support this project then do please send your articles to the parish office.

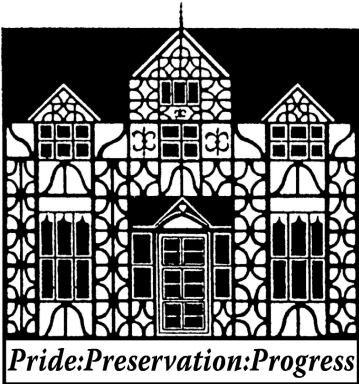
Gordon Witcomb.

Village Events

Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 12th April 2012
7pm in Catshill Village Hall
(see page 8 for details)

**Catshill Fun Day and
Community Games**
30th June 2012
On The Meadow

The Bromsgrove Society



THE Bromsgrove Society was formed in 1980 as both a civic and local history society. For over 30 years it has defended the Green Belt and keeps a watching brief on planning applications raising objections where attractive buildings or green spaces are threatened. The Local History Group carries out research and holds regular speaker meetings on local history topics.

A number of books have been published such as *Bygone Bromsgrove* and *The Bromsgrove Guild* and the popular annual local history magazine *The Bromsgrove Rousler* is available for £2.50 at Catshill Post Office and Willowbrook Garden Centre.

Members get a free Rousler and three interesting newsletters each year, plus reduced admission charges to many events. Membership of the Society costs £9.00 (£7.00 for pensioners) and details can be obtained from the secretary, Chris Nesbitt, 31 Barley Mow Lane, Catshill. Telephone 01527 877227.

“Saxon Gold” – The Bromsgrove Lecture

The 26th Bromsgrove Lecture, arranged by The Bromsgrove Society, takes place on Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at 7.30.p.m. at Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School.

This year the lecture is by Dr. David Symons and is entitled ***“Saxon Gold”***. David is the Birmingham Museum Curator of Antiquities and Numismatics and he will tell us about the discovery and the ongoing conservation work on the Staffordshire Hoard.

The Society is anticipating a good demand for tickets, which are only £5 each and can be obtained from Waterstones bookshop, Bromsgrove, or by telephoning 0121 453 3034 or 2100.

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From Our Past

THIS month's photograph from the past shows Haywood's Fish and Chip Shop. Many people will remember a fish and chip shop in Woodrow Lane which was trading before and for a while at the same time as the current shop in Golden Cross Lane. However, Haywood's Fish and Chip shop was in Meadow Lane and was in operation much earlier. This photograph shows Mr & Mrs Sam Haywood and their son Matthew outside the shop in the 1930's. Haywood's chip shop was very popular for many years and was



used by villagers and people from the surrounding area, including many of the workers from the nearby Barnsley Hall Hospital who would walk across the fields to buy their lunch. The building still exists but has undergone much alteration over the years. Don't forget to let us know if you have any interesting photographs from the past.

Cllr. Paul Masters.

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Local British Legion Award

DALE Carter, Chairman of the Lickey End Branch of The Royal British Legion, was justifiably proud on the 14th January, when at the Worcestershire County AGM held in the Spadesbourne Suite, Bromsgrove, he received the Taffy Mathews Memorial Cup. The award is for the best overall small branch in the county.

Mr Carter said “To achieve this award after being down to a handful of members 3 years ago, is overwhelming. We have achieved it through hard work and determination. We did not want to lose our remembrance parade, as we would have, had we been forced to amalgamate with another branch. Over the last few years we formed links and associations with lots of other community groups including Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council, all the Churches, the Scouts, the WI, the M&C club, the NWWA and Bromsgrove Lions. My thanks go to my



Dale Carter receiving the award from Ken Draper, County Vice President.

superb management team, members and their families, and of course the people of Catshill, Bournheath, Marlbrook and Lickey End”.

Dale also added that their next large fund raising event for the Poppy Appeal will be a Saint George’s Day Dance, on Monday 23rd April, at Catshill Village Hall. Tickets and details are available by phone from Branch Secretary Alan Kelly on 0121 445 2574.

The Beat Goes On...

AFTER the successful re-introduction of the Catshill Music Festival in late June/early July last year, the festival is back again for 2012. However this year’s events have been brought forward to the month of March, in order to accommodate contributions by some of our schools.

At the time of going to press these are the year’s events so far:

Tue 27th March: “An Afternoon Concert” at Catshill First School & Nursery at 2pm.

Sat 31st March: “An M&C Friendship Club Musical Evening” with the Blackwell Concert Band - 7pm in Catshill Village Hall. Tickets £7.50 (includes buffet), from Alan Kelly phone 0121 445 2574.

Sat 31st March: “The Bournville Young Peoples Choir” - 7pm at Catshill Methodist Church. Tickets £6, from Malcolm Shepherd phone 07980 505 878.

The Catshill Music Festival has its own website (www.catshillmusicfestival.co.uk) where you can keep up to date with all events.





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Sunday Night Quiz
Great Prizes
Fun Starts At Eight

LIVE
MUSIC

Two**4**One

Two Meals For The Price Of One

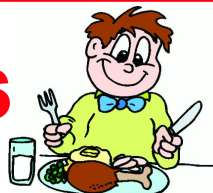
ALL DAY - EVERY DAY

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The Landshare and Bike to Work Schemes

AS the better weather arrives we think some of you may be interested in the following two items:

The Landshare Scheme

Within our area there must be many people, who for various reasons have vegetable gardens that they can no longer manage. At the same time there must be many people who would love to benefit from the experience of “growing their own” yet have no suitable garden of their own.

The Landshare scheme brings together people who have a love for home-grown food, by connecting those who have land to share with those who want land for cultivating food. Since its launch through the TV programme River Cottage in 2009 the scheme has grown into a thriving community of more than 67,000 growers, sharers and helpers nationally.

The Environment & Highways committee of your Parish Council believe that this scheme has great potential for our area.

If you are interested in this scheme, then visit the Landshare website www.landshare.net and let us know too!

The Bike to Work Scheme.



**Bike2Work
Scheme.co.uk**

Tax Free Cycles

If you already cycle to work or are considering doing so, then you may be interested in the Bike2Work Scheme, details of which can be found at: www.bike2workscheme.co.uk

This website explains how both employers and employees can sign-up with this scheme which, once in operation, can result in substantial discounts on the purchase of cycles for employees who already cycle to work and those who would like to start.

The Scheme is made possible by the Government's Green Transport Plan which not only aims to reduce environmental pollution and promote healthier lifestyles but

also make cycling to work a cost-effective option for employees.

Keen cyclists may also like to know that the dates for Bike Week 2012 have been announced as 16th – 24th June. Bike Week is a national celebration of cycling and is the UK's largest mass participation cycling event, with almost half a million people participating across the country. For more information see the www.bikeweek.org.uk website.

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Local Policing News

BROMSGROVE North Local Policing Team are very sad to say goodbye to Local Police Officer Al Healy. After 3 years of hard work in the Catshill and Marlbrook area he is moving on to pastures new. Al will be starting his new role in CID based in Bromsgrove. We are very sad to see him go because Al has made a massive difference in the community. Al is obviously irreplaceable! However, PC Barney Kelso who covers the Sidemoor and Woodvale area will also take on Catshill and Marlbrook.

A new initiative for Catshill are regular walkabouts where anyone is welcome to meet Councillor Helen Jones and CSO Kirsten Bowkett and have a walk around the local areas discussing any problems.

Engagements in March are:

Friday 9th March at 10:00 from Cobnall Road , finishing at Alexander Close.

Tuesday 13th March at 10:00 from Mayfield Close, finishing at Church Road.

Friday 23rd March at 10:00 from Stourbridge Road, finishing at Dale Close.

Kirsten Bowkett.

Annual Community Forum

THE Parish Council is obliged to hold a meeting every year sometime between 1st March and 1st June, traditionally called the Annual Parish Meeting. Don't be fooled into thinking this a parish council meeting! It is more of an opportunity for members of the community, residents and employers, to meet and talk about anything that is community related.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 12th April 2012, at 7pm in Catshill Village Hall. You set the agenda – contact the Clerk for details.

All residents of Catshill and North Marlbrook are welcome to attend; no need to book!

Catshill Village Meadow

CATSHILL Village Meadow has been run by the North West Ward Association, a Registered Charitable Trust for the last 40 years. As it is not council owned, they oversee the maintenance of the meadow and its facilities for the enjoyment of the village.

Their volunteer members have unfortunately dwindled in numbers, and they may soon find it difficult to maintain the Charity if they are unable to operate effectively.

They Need Members Now

Why not join their committee, or simply offer support at events like Car Boot sales, Bonfire Night and the annual Catshill Village Fun Day (which is organised by the Association).

If you would like further information, or want to come along to see what they do, get in touch with Catherine Simcox on **01527 875006**

Parish Council Meetings



Left to right:

*Cllr. Margaret Millward
Cllr. Frank Cook
Cllr. Roy Nicklin
Cllr. Paul Masters*



Left to right:

*Cllr. Alan Kelly
Cllr. Malcolm Shephard
Cllr. Martin Tingle
Cllr. Phil Baker
Cllr. Stephen Haynes*



Gill Lungley (Clerk), Cllr. Gordon Witcomb (Chair)

PICTURED is the Full Parish Council meeting that occurred on 23rd February 2012. Ten Full Parish Council meetings are held per year, and just like the various committee meetings of the parish council, all are open to the public. Full Parish Council meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month (except for August and December). The dates for meetings are posted on the parish notice boards which are located outside of Tesco Express in Marlbrook and the Ivy Gardens in Catshill. Meeting dates are also listed on the parish website.

You are most welcome to join us.

We will also have our usual stand at the Fun Day on 30th June 2012 on the Meadow, so do feel free to come and have a chat with us.

Parish Plan Published

A Parish Plan is a document setting out how the parishioners, business owners and other members of the community want to see the area develop and improve over the next few years. They are evolving documents, a vision for the future expressing residents' views and aspirations to form an action plan.

The plan is being actioned by Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council as well as the Parish Plan Group, and you should have received a copy of it with this newsletter. We hope you read it and keep it for future reference. We would also appreciate any feedback, please contact us via the Clerk.

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Thank You For A Bright Christmas!

THANKS to everyone who helped make the parish as bright and colourful as ever over the Christmas period with their decorative light displays. As we promised in our last newsletter, the Parish council ran the annual Best Decorated Christmas Window Display Competition.

Just prior to Christmas two Parish councillors toured the area looking for the best displays for this free to enter challenge, and once again it was a pleasure to see such creativity that made the parish look so festive.

Although there were many excellent displays, extra congratulations must go to the first, second and third prize-winners, who have been informed by letter, and are listed on the Competitions page of the parish website: www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/competitions. However, at the time of going to press one winner has yet to claim their prize!

Let's make the summer colourful too!

We would like to remind everyone that we will be hosting the usual summer competition again this year, where we will be awarding cash prizes for the Best Floral Display that is visible from the road. It is free to enter; all you have to do is be creative and put on a display of colourful flowers which this year can be growing in the garden, tubs or baskets. Parish councillors will tour the area in the summer, and will award prizes for first, second and third places. All winners will be notified by post and published on the parish website.

Good luck, but remember that we are all winners when people take the time and trouble to make their gardens as attractive as possible, because all who see them enjoy them.

Do you have any ideas for future competitions that we could run instead of, or as well as the two annual ones mentioned above? If you do, then please let us know, and the Events committee will consider your ideas.

About This Newsletter

THIS newsletter is produced by your parish council to help keep you informed of what the council, the community and the many organisations within it are doing. We aim to deliver a copy to all homes within the parish. Extra copies are also left in various public places for anyone to take, and past and present electronic versions are also downloadable from the parish website.

If you know of anyone living in the parish who is not receiving copies of these newsletters, then please let us know, so that we can rectify the situation.

Also, if you have any contributions or suggestions for future editions or if you wish to advertise, then please contact the clerk.

Catshill Fun Day and Community Games - 30th June 2012



THIS year's Fun Day will be at the end of June and avoids clashing with the Elizabethan Market and Carnival days in Bromsgrove.

As well as the usual attractions, this year we shall be linking in with London 2012 with a view to providing extra activities and Olympic themed events. The planning is at the early stages but

we are hoping to get local sports clubs along for either demonstrations, practice, coaching and if possible to run competitions.

Our brief is that activities should be open to all ages not just the young and fit so we are hoping there will be something of interest for everybody.

As well as the sports we would also like to tie in with the cultural

Olympiad and have some arts activities as well. We are hoping that Catshill Village Hall would be available both daytime and in the evening for something musical.

The success of the day largely depends on which organisations we are able to attract and what they are able to offer. We are in the process of contacting them and our next newsletter should contain more detail.

Meanwhile, if you are a members of a sports or arts club and your organisation would be interested in taking part in the Fun Day and Community Games then please contact Cllr Phil Baker of the Parish Council either by email (p.baker@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk) or phone 01527 870861.



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.

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