

*Delivered to 3000 Households*

**Catshill & North Marlbrook**

*Parish Council*

*Newsletter Spring 2013*

# *Catshill Community Library Update*

*CATSHILL Library is moving from Barley Mow Lane to its new site at Catshill Middle School in Meadow Road. Here is a message from Steve Mobley, Manager for the County Council's Library and Learning Service.*

"We continue to make excellent progress preparing for the move. Most important has been the fantastic support and enthusiasm from the initial wave of volunteers. We've been delighted to have met our volunteers individually to discuss opportunities for training and to experience library life in Catshill and Rubery libraries as we get closer to the move in April after Easter. All volunteers will have the opportunity to work alongside regular members of staff and can be reassured that Bev Orlowsky, a very experienced Library Manager, will work with volunteers to ensure we continue to provide good quality services to the community.

As we move closer to 16th April we would like to afford the community an opportunity to share any memories of the existing library building which was of course originally a chapel. In the library is a small display of some historic cuttings and a memories book where we hope current and former users of the building will pop in and record their memories. I for one remember my mother taking me to the library in the mid 60's and thumbing through the wooden box to find my library ticket. No computer systems then! This small piece of Catshill history can be taken with us to the new library and hopefully younger and future generations will recognise how this building has been very much at the heart of the Catshill community and that library services continue to be valued.

If you can't get to the library please email a well-wishing message to [Catshilllib@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Catshilllib@worcestershire.gov.uk) and we'll ensure they are recorded and displayed.

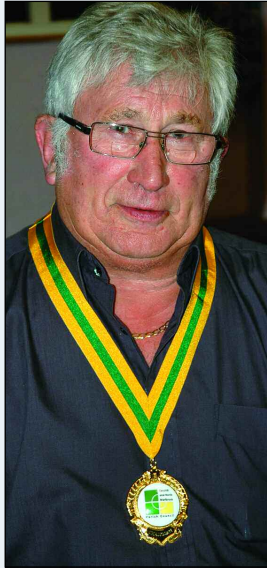
Currently in the existing library we have a comprehensive selection of new holiday destination books so if you're thinking of planning that holiday or need a good quality guide, Catshill library is the place! We're continuing to provide a better and more appealing stock so please let us know what you like by dropping in and having a chat."

***[www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk)***

## *A Message from the Chair*

WE start the year again with demands for more housing in the parish. The proposals to demolish the garage blocks off Byron Way to provide housing were turned down by district councillors due to the parking problems that would arise as a result. We now await the decisions regarding similar plans off Oak Road and the proposal to build 15 one-bedroom flats to replace the Ivy Cottage public house. We know this will create parking problems in an area that is already congested and residents are concerned about access to services and emergency vehicles. We understand the need for more housing generally but think the time must be coming when we say enough is enough for Catshill and North Marlbrook!

Flooding in Green Lane is still a worry even though some work has been carried out on the balancing pools and surrounding area to alleviate the problem. The North Worcestershire Water Management team are working towards



improving the situation so that residents will not have to venture out every time a heavy rain storm comes along ensuring sand bags are in place, which is not acceptable in this day and age.

The Catshill library is moving from Barley Mow Lane to refurbished space at the side of the Middle School. You can read more about this in the newsletter.

We are looking at the state of the bus shelters within the Parish which were put up

before the Parish Council was instated; we think some need to be replaced. We have installed two new shelters in the last few years, but even those are vandalised from time to time I am sorry to say. This year a band D council tax payer will contribute £10.40 to our funds\* so we would like to hear your views on how the council's funding is spent. Should we replace the bus shelters or is there something else we should be investing in?

*Gordon*

### ***\*Stop Press***

Due to undisclosed problems at Bromsgrove DC the government grant of £2530 we expected BDC to pass on to the parish councils has been left out of the precept calculations, meaning a band D council tax payer will be contributing £11.55 to the parish precept instead of the £10.40 we requested. At the time of going to press the parish council has not yet met to decide how to deal with this. We would welcome your suggestions.

**facebook**

Keep up to date with your Parish Council on our Facebook page.  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Catshill-North-Marlbrook-Parish-Council/464961390215267>

## ***Your Community Needs You***



**OK** it's a bit of a cliché to use the hackneyed image of Lord Kitchener to capture your attention but if you are reading this article then it must have worked, so read on.

At present we have two vacancies for councillors on the Parish Council and we can co-opt anybody interested.

The qualification is that you need to reside, work or own land in the Parish or live within three miles of the boundary. Having got the rules out of the way, what will you have to do?

Most councillors sit on a committee or two that looks in detail at Parish Council business, these can be broadly categorised as planning, environmental and events. Some of us concentrate on specific areas others take a wider view of Parish matters. For most councillors it is just a few hours each month but like

most public offices you can generally do as much work as you want.

All councillors are expected to attend the full Council meeting that takes place monthly except August and December.

If you need more information as to what being a parish councillor entails then contact the clerk on 07813 671899. If you would like to talk to a councillor then Gill will be quite happy to give you a contact.

## ***First World War Commemoration***

**WHILST** on the subject of Lord Kitchener, he had a glittering military and political career before dying in the middle of the First World War. As the Secretary of State for War, he was a powerful and influential individual. His iconic image was used to sign up the vast number of personnel needed to conduct the campaign.

Next year sees the hundred-year anniversary of the start of that war and many commemorations are planned. Nothing has yet been discussed at the Parish Council but some form of tribute will almost certainly be made to honour the men from this area who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

We have a Book of Remembrance (lodged at Christ Church, also online on the Parish website) that contains details of the men whose names are on the War Memorial. We are always interested to obtain more information about them, many of whose relatives and descendents we suspect still live in the area. Please contact the clerk if you have any material to offer.

As for a commemoration, that will be planned later in the year, suggestions as to what we could do would be appreciated

## *Catshill Fun Day – Saturday 15th June*

**PLANS** are well under way for the annual **Fun Day and Community Games** in Catshill on the 15th June 2013 on the Meadow.

We are going to be building on the success of last year's Olympic themed fun day with lots of fun races and activities for all ages all of which will take place from 1pm to 4pm.

Organised by the Charity the North West Ward Association and supported by the local Parish, District and County Councils the event offers something for everyone.

There will of course be the traditional stalls and a wide range of inflatables.

Ian Prust the organiser and Chairman of

the NWWA said "this is the 10th year of the Catshill Fun day and it is going from strength to strength, it is a great way to bring the community together to take part in sporting and cultural activities"

Ian said "all the money raised by the organising committee is spent on maintaining the Meadow facilities including the play areas, pathway, changing rooms and football pitch, which is used by 2 local youth teams"

There is still plenty of room on the 3½ acres so if anyone from the area would like to attend with a charity stall or display please call **01527 873066** to book a space on the day.

## *Catshill & Marlbrook Foodbank*



**MOST** people who come to foodbanks for emergency food are not homeless. They are families who have hit hard times, people who have been made redundant, become ill or are experiencing benefit delay: they are the UK's hidden hungry.

Sadly, recession means that more and more people are going hungry right on our doorsteps but the good news is that foodbanks across the UK are making a real difference. In one year The Trussell Trust's foodbank network fed 26,000 men, women and children nationwide.

Through foodbanks, Christians are leading the way in combating hidden hunger in the UK, but there's so much more to be done.

Not being able to provide food for your children is every parent's nightmare. For a single father whose benefits had not been paid on time, the nightmare was becoming a reality. Thankfully, a visit to his local foodbank meant that he not only had enough food for supper that night – but for the next three days too. What's more, the support and kindness he was shown almost drove him to tears.


Every day parents across the UK find themselves struggling to feed their children, we want to step up to the challenge to help them.

*Catshill & Marlbrook Foodbank, C/O Catshill Baptist Church, Milton Road,*

*Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0NA **07542 102649.***

*[info@catshillmarlbrook.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@catshillmarlbrook.foodbank.org.uk) - [www.catshillmarlbrook.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.catshillmarlbrook.foodbank.org.uk)*








**YOUTH CAFÉ**

ARE YOU 12 - 16 YEARS OLD  
AND WANT SOMEWHERE  
TO HANG OUT ON A  
COLD EVENING?

THEN COME HANG  
OUT AT **'THIRST'** EVERY  
OTHER MONDAY  
EVENING FROM 7PM - 9PM

GRAB A HOT DRINK,  
COLD DRINK, SNACK AND HANG  
OUT IN A WARM SAFE PLACE!

**CATSHILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION

Raising funds for  
The Royal British Legion.



**SAINT  
GEORGE'S  
DAY DANCE**

7p.m. Saturday 20th April  
in the Village Hall.

For information and tickets call Alan on  
**0121 445 2574**

## Remembrance Sunday - 11th November 2012



*Crowds file into Catshill Club, and then gather at the War Memorial*

**YOUR** parish council would like to thank everyone who made then Remembrance Day service and act of remembrance at the war memorial such successful and dignified event. This annual service has been held within the village for decades but is attracting even larger attendances in recent years since being moved to the conveniently situated Catshill Club where the joint service is held before, and tea and coffee is served after the act of remembrance at the war memorial.

The Lickey End branch of the Royal British Legion would also like to thank everyone who contributed to their appeal, helping raise over £4000 from within our community.

## ***Demonstrating a Commitment to Youth Provision***

**DELIVERING** Scouting's Everyday Adventure to the young people of Bournheath, Catshill, Fairfield, Marlbrook, Wildmoor & surrounding area, 6th Bromsgrove Scout Group's headquarters, which is located in Catshill, has been transformed with help of



parents, Vinci (an international construction & facilities management company), Conren (an international flooring solutions company) and members of the local community, including local District Councillor Helen Jones and Police Community Support Officers Kirsten Bowkett and Sarah Harvey.

We are working to enable the Scout Group to continue delivering a fun, challenging and adventurous programme in a safe environment and a building that is more user friendly for children and adults that have supportive needs.

The Scout Hut is home to a Cubs Pack, Scout Troop and the District's Scout Network Unit all of which are open to children & adults of both sexes.

Over the coming months the Scout Group wishes to continue its programme of refurbishment and is seeking volunteers to help deliver Scouting's exciting programme to young people that live in the area, whether as a helper in the Cub Pack, Scout Troop, Administrator, Cleaner or Grass cutter. There is a voluntary role for everyone to help today's young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Group's long term aim is to open a Beaver Colony for children aged between 6 years & 8 years. To do this the Scout Group needs your help.

Whether you are young person that wants to spend a night under the stars cooking on an open fire or an adult that want to assist in developing today's young people contact [6thBromsgrove@gmail.com](mailto:6thBromsgrove@gmail.com) or telephone 01527 833583

## ***Catshill Music Festival***

**CATSHILL** & North Marlbrook Parish Council are working towards creating a new style Catshill Music Festival featuring local and professional performers. If you are interested in joining our mailing list or are interested in being a performer, please contact us.

Anyone interested in taking part as a performer will be required to attend a rehearsal using the sound system and to offer a 15 minute time slot.

For information please contact Greta on 01527 575532 or e-mail: [catshillmusicfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:catshillmusicfestival@yahoo.com)

## *Localism - One Member's View*

ON taking office in 2010, David Cameron's big idea was "localism". In essence devolving decision-making down to localities and small communities. Unfortunately neither he nor his ministers have really explained very well what they mean by term let alone how it can be applied in practice.

To date much of the implementation of localism has been in rural areas where to be fair a number of initiatives have started mainly to get over the sticky issue of how expand the population to more sustainable levels without invoking opposition to more building.

Here in Catshill & North Marlbrook we are not rural but suburban with fairly easy access to most of what we want within a few miles. But that does not mean that we do not have problems that may well be solved by "localism" i.e. local people taking initiatives to enhance their community.

Without pre-empting the deliberations of the Parish Council where we shall be looking in depth at this matter in coming months, we could apply our own take on "localism" now by our own individual actions.

If we are to have a viable and vibrant community within the Parish area then we all need to contribute to it however small that action might be.

One policy the Parish Council attempts to promote is buying locally to support local shops and businesses wherever possible. So instead of travelling to the nearest shopping mall or buying online why not buy from local shops or attempt to re-invigorate Bromsgrove's High Street?

Similarly with supermarkets. With a bit of effort it is quite easy to buy weekly supplies from smaller shops often at

competitive prices and comparable quality. Then there are the local pubs, all of which have seen a downturn in trade recently. OK, the factors are complex but not long ago the pubs were the focus of community activity even if it was just a chat and drink with the neighbours. It seems to be a habit that we have got out of.

Surprisingly there are a number of social and sports clubs that operate in and around the Parish. Some are quite busy whilst others particularly those for youngsters struggle due to lack of adult volunteers. We all want our youngsters to be gainfully occupied but it is difficult unless us older folk give them a hand.

So that is my very personal view on localism and not necessarily that of the Parish Council but I hope it provokes a bit of thought or even debate. Feedback would be appreciated.

*(Cllr) Phil Baker*

*philjbaker@btinternet.com*



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**Mill Lane, Wildmoor,**  
**Bromsgrove, B61 0BX**





## *An Amazing Display!*



**SATURDAY** 3rd November last year saw another hugely successful bonfire event on the Meadow. Record crowds turned out to witness another fantastic bonfire and firework display organised by your parish council, with the Catshill based 6th Bromsgrove scouts providing excellent food and refreshments. Thanks must go to all the volunteers who helped make this occasion so amazing, and the many positive comments from attendees has been much appreciated. Why not join us this year on Saturday 2nd November!

## *Boundary Changes*

**THE** Boundary Commission is reviewing all of Bromsgrove district's ward boundaries as a result of a request from the district council to reduce the number of district councillors. It is likely this will result in 32 wards with one member in each. In order to do this new wards will be created to provide equal representation across the district and for our area they are recommending that Catshill is split in two, with the new wards to be called Catshill North and Catshill South. The Marlbrook part of the parish will remain in the district's Marlbrook ward. Our initial

consultation response asked for Catshill to remain as one whole ward with two members but the Commission decided against this. They have now revised their plans to include the Wildmoor part of Bournheath parish in Catshill North, and Bournheath village is to be included with Catshill South. This is a big change as this new proposal does not recognise the M5 as a natural boundary or recognise that Catshill has its own unique identity. To view the proposals please see the Local Government Boundary Commission's website: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## *Dog Training Classes*

**YOUR** parish council is always keen to inform you of what is going on within the parish, especially if something new is happening. We do this in several ways including the What's On section of our website, and of course this newsletter.

In this edition we are pleased to inform you that since last November, Kim Wilkes of Doggy Daycare has been running dog training classes in the village hall on most Thursday nights.

If you would like to attend classes with your dog, then just pop into the village hall on any Thursday evening (except the last Thursday of the month – as this is when we hold our full parish council meetings!)



## *Wild About Plants*

**WILD** plant charity Plantlife ([www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)) are hoping to reach out to many wild plant enthusiasts and nature lovers by inviting them to become wild plant 'pioneers' and subscribe to a free quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants via the 'Wild About Plants' project website - [www.wildaboutplants.org.uk](http://www.wildaboutplants.org.uk). The Wild About Plants project aims to help people reconnect with the outdoors and their local greenspaces. Working with schools, families and communities from all walks of life and with fantastic free downloadable resources, the team hope to engage people with the nature on their doorstep. In recent years subscribers have been asked to record the plant life in their local area and recount what they used to see/pick and forage for. Wild About Plants is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. It is a partnership project involving partner organisations throughout the country.

Did you know that the County flower for Worcestershire is the cowslip (*primula veris*)?

*Katie Cameron, Communications & Outreach Support Officer. 01722 342759*

*[www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)*

And don't forget if you love more formal gardens that the three "Marlbrook Gardens" will be open again this year, raising money for charity as part of the National Gardens Scheme. The dates for your diary are: Sunday afternoon 26th May, Sunday afternoon 7th July, Saturday evening 24th August (illuminated) and Sunday afternoon 25th August.

# **GOLDEN PLAICE**

## **Fish & Chips**

**139 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill**

**FRESH FISH Delivered DAILY**

**01527 876318**

**LUNCHTIME SPECIALS**

**Pies Kebabs & much more**

**Card Payments accepted**

## *Are Parish Councils a Waste of Money?*

**RECENT** front page headlines in the Bromsgrove Standard referred to the costs of Parish Councils giving the impression that they are funded by the District Council. We would like to make it clear that the Parish Councils' precept (the money raised via council tax) is paid for only by residents of the parish and does not come from the District Council's coffers. This ensures that the tier of local government that is closest to the people it serves is paid for by those people. For 2013/14 the total amount for the year for a band D council tax payer is £11.55; we had expected this to be reduced to £10.40 thanks to a grant from Central Government intended to benefit all parish councils nationally to offset the council tax benefit changes but, as at time of writing, Bromsgrove DC have yet to pass this on.

We have to hold a meeting every year for residents to gather and talk about parish issues. This is known as the Annual Parish Meeting and this year it has been rescheduled so that anyone who has concerns about the costs involved can come and tell us what they think.

If you have any comments at all – good or bad or indifferent - about this issue then we would like to hear from you. Please come along to have your say on what we do with your money; the meeting will be held at Catshill Village Hall on Thursday 25th April 2013 at 7.00pm. If you can't make it to the meeting then please write or e-mail the Parish Council with your thoughts on funding.

## *It's Community Showcase Time*

**AFTER** last year's successful Community Showcase where a number of our local community organisations presented information on what they get up to, we are pleased to announce another one is to be held on Saturday 20th April at Catshill Village Hall between 10.00am and 2.00pm. This is open to everyone to attend and we would like to see as many of you as possible.

The aim of this free event is to promote the often unheard activities of our local community organisations to ensure everyone gets a better idea of what is happening on their doorstep. Free refreshments will be available to all who attend.

If you wish your organisation to be represented, please contact the Clerk ASAP.

## *Bracken Grove Play Area*

**JUST** to update everyone on the situation regarding the closure of one of Catshill's long-standing play areas. Last October the District Council, as the body responsible for this play area, installed locked gates across the entrance to the Bracken Grove play area. When asked what was going on they claimed they were closing it down due to anti-social behaviour on the site. The District Council added that since there are other play areas within walking distance then the Bracken Grove area would be sold off to neighbouring properties as garden space. Residents and the Parish Council were concerned not to have been advised of the plan to lose a well-used community amenity. We would be interested to hear what you think about this closure.

## *Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 17th May*

**WANT** to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 17th May 2013 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Since 2009 we have raised over £20,000 and it has become our flagship community fundraising event. We want to raise £10,000 from this event in 2013 we can provide more support to spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives.”

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350

email: [fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk)  
or visit

***[www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)***

## *Catshill Marshes*

**IN** an attempt to prevent the destruction of the wildlife marshy area that is bordered by the M5, Stourbridge Road, Church Road and Wildmoor Lane a group of residents organised themselves into the Catshill Marshes Action Group and submitted an application to officially recognise the site as a Village Green. After a three-day hearing at County Hall in early December last year the Inspector's decision was made known on 11th March 2013 that the application was not successful.

The Parish Council values the strong effort put up by the action group to retain this natural area that has been used by many residents over the years for walking round and playing on and is disappointed by the outcome. However the site already has planning permission for 80 new homes and the plans also incorporate retention of a wetland feature and an open brook course which will be looked after by a management company.

We can expect building work to start on the site shortly and although we may not like the concreting over of our green and pleasant land we understand the need for new housing. We shall therefore be welcoming of the new residents when they move in to our community and wish them well in their new homes.

# CATSHILL FUN DAY

and  
**Community Games**

# 15th June

**1pm to 4pm  
on the Meadow**

**Organised by The North West Ward Association  
Supported by the local Parish, District and County Councils**

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

[www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk)

