

*Delivered to 3000 Households*

# Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

*Newsletter Spring/Summer 2016*

## *What Your Parish Council Does For You*

**THE** Parish Council works for the community of Catshill and North Marlbrook in a variety of ways. There is a focus at present on enhancing the professionalism of Parish Councils and in turn allowing greater delegation of responsibilities from District Councils. The Local Council Award Scheme allows Councils to demonstrate their competence at managing a professional service and Catshill and North Marlbrook are working towards obtaining an accreditation in this area.

Your Parish Council has a wide range of responsibilities and within these is the provision of some services such as the Litter Picker to keep the area tidy and the Lengthsman to keep the ditches and pathways clear. There is a rolling programme being implemented to replace and maintain the Bus shelters in the village and gardens have been created and maintained to enhance the area for parishioners.

Grants have been provided from the Parish Council to assist local organisations and community groups and the flood alleviation scheme has been enhanced by the addition of trees around the balancing pools.

The Parish Council also maintains the War Memorial and assists with the organisation of the Remembrance Day Service each November, in addition to contributing to local events and working with the Scouts to provide the Annual Bonfire and Firework Display on the Meadow.

The Parish Council is currently embarking on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and needs your help and input as it is a community document and not owned by the Council. An article dedicated to this is located in this newsletter and more information will be posted on Notice Boards and the website in due course.

The Clerk to the Parish Council is available to take local issues and queries and liaises with Worcester County Council and Bromsgrove District Council if concerns fall outside our remit.

This is your Parish, and if you wish to see Catshill and North Marlbrook maintain its identity, please join us at our meetings to discuss relevant issues and the way forward. Full Parish Council Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month (except August and December) at 7:30pm at Catshill Village Hall with additional Committee Meetings held in between these times. All Agendas are published on the website and Notice Boards prior to the meeting.

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

## *Christmas Tree*

**THE** Parish Council were pleased to again provide a Christmas tree outside the Village hall as we continue to contribute to improving the look and feel of the Village at Christmas, also installing new lights onto the tree. Due to the size of the tree however, this was not without its issues and you may have noticed that the tree did eventually fall within the Village Hall gates due to excessive strong winds, despite the specially designed mechanism that had been installed to hold it in place. Further improvements will be made next year to attempt to prevent this from happening again.



## *Parking on Grass*



*The new fence in Golden Cross Lane.*

**THE** Parish Council has, over many years, dealt with complaints regarding parking on grass verges in the village and attempted in various ways to discourage people from doing so. Recently, in particular, concerns were being raised regarding parking on the slip road in Golden Cross Lane and how it was causing the grass to become muddy and churned. With the assistance of District Councillor Shirley Webb and County Councillor Sheila Blagg there has now been a new low fence erected along the inside of this slip road which will hopefully be successful in preventing parking issues in the future.

## *Ivy Cottage Footpath*

**YOU** may have been aware of the situation that occurred towards the end of last year regarding the loss of path outside the new Co-op on Gibb Lane. The Parish Council were particularly concerned about the implications this had for pedestrians causing the need to enter the road to negotiate that particularly busy corner. Due to this the Parish Council worked with Bromsgrove District Councillor Shirley Webb, Worcestershire County Councillor Sheila Blagg and the developers to establish a footpath around the outside of the newly erected fence. After the developers levelled the back car park, they kindly donated a small piece of land for County to maintain in the future, therefore making a smooth footpath for the public right of way. Councillor Shirley Webb would like to thank the developers for their cooperation and the Parish Council are pleased with the outcome that has been established when working with the District and County Councils.



**WELCOME** to your Spring/Summer edition of the Parish Newsletter.

I am personally delighted with the complementary comments I am receiving about this publication and the increasing number of residents that are showing real interest in our village.

We now have 11 Parish Councillors leaving two places open for co-option.

If you feel you are that person, please contact the Clerk. Becky, I am sure, will be delighted to hear from you no matter what the subject.

These are exciting times and you have a real opportunity to influence the future of our village by getting involved in the Neighbourhood Plan, details of which will become increasingly evident

as the plan is rolled out. You do not need to be a councillor to become part of the steering group should you wish to contribute. Contact Becky, who will point you in the right direction.

The village Hall now provides a significant amount of classes and Social gatherings providing an interest for most of our residents, coupled with the Meadow, Scouts, Schools and our Churches giving the village good community spirit, admirably supported by the Catshill Club and a number of well run local pubs that do their share.

We are pleased to announce the employment of an Assistant Clerk onto the Council and welcome Emma onto the team. Emma will be helping Becky with the Planning aspects of the role and has already begun her training.

My welcome purposely does not go into specifics. For that read on, or visit our web site or indeed contact the Clerk, Becky.

I sincerely trust you will enjoy this publication, if not please let us know and we will try harder.

*Owen*

## New Website

**THE** Parish Council are very pleased to announce the launch of our new website which can be accessed at [www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk). This is an ongoing project that will eventually allow access to social media in the form of Facebook and Twitter, hopefully encompassing a wide audience in the parish of Catshill and North Marlbrook.



## Catshill Churchyard

**THE** Churchyard opposite Christ Church on the Stourbridge Road has been used by Catshill people for around 80 years to lay their relatives to rest. Over the years, the area known by many locals as The Cemetery has grown considerably as more plots have been taken and there is no longer any room for new plots to be dug. Though bereaved families sign to say they will maintain the area around it when they apply for a plot, as they get older or possibly move away from the area, the plot becomes overgrown and has to be maintained by others.

Unfortunately, Bromsgrove Council does not have the responsibility to maintain the Churchyard. Until now, Christ Church has managed the upkeep of the area with considerable help from the Welcome Hall Evangelical Church and the Probation Service. Unfortunately, as we all grow older, fewer people are able to help with this maintenance and we are in imminent danger of the Churchyard getting overgrown. Whilst the Probation Service will cut it periodically, they are unable to guarantee to keep it tidy throughout the growing season.

What we are hoping to do is to put together a group of “friends” who have access to motorised trimmers and who could meet together approximately once a month during the growing season to keep the area tidy. With continued help from the Probation Service and Christ Church congregation itself, the grass could be kept short and the Churchyard will remain a pleasant place to visit loved ones in their final resting places.

Can you help for a couple of hours once a month? Please contact Keith Godwin by email on [keith.godwin49@hotmail.com](mailto:keith.godwin49@hotmail.com) or by telephone on **07813264753**.

## From Our Past



**THIS** edition’s Old Photograph feature allows us to see a “now and then” view of the former Ivy Cottage public house, which is now a Co-op store.

The building is pictured from Milton Road, looking across Barley Mow Lane. The first photo is from 2005, and the second from 2016. Although neither picture is particularly old, I think they illustrate how our community continues to evolve.

Remember, if you have an old photograph of our area that you would like to share, then just contact the clerk.

*Cllr Paul Masters.*

# CATSHILL YOUTH CLUB "Thirst"

**When?**

**Monday Evening – 6:00 – 8:00pm**

**Where?**

**Catshill Baptist Church – Milton Road**

**Age?**

**Young people aged 12-19**

**Cost?**

**£1.00 per session**

**Example Activities:**

**Pool, Games Consoles, Occasional Trips, Art and  
Crafts, Music, Cooking**

**Its YOUR club so have your say what you want!**



**YMCA**  
WORCESTERSHIRE

**For more information  
contact Kate Higginson -  
07715373219**



**us on Facebook  
"YMCA Worcestershire  
Youth and Community"**

## *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**

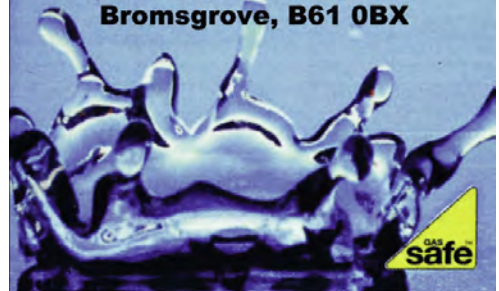
## **BP Services (UK) Ltd**

Commercial & Domestic  
Plumbing and Heating



**01527 870600**

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



**safe**

At the recent Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council launched proposals to formulate a 'Neighbourhood Plan' for the local Parish area.

To enable us to produce this 'Neighbourhood Plan' we will need the active support of a number of local people who would be willing to become members of a steering group that will have responsibility for driving the 'Neighbourhood Plan' forward.

The concept of 'Neighbourhood Plans' was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and they are fundamentally about giving rights to local communities about the type, location, size, pace and design of developments in their area.

### **Neighbourhood Plans can:**

- *Decide where and what type of developments should happen in the neighbourhood area*
- *Include policies such as on design standards, which could take precedence over existing policies in the Bromsgrove District Council Local Plan for the neighbourhood.*

### **The Neighbourhood Plan must primarily be about the use and development of land and could include the following:**

- *Housing developments, including affordable homes, and bringing vacant and derelict housing back into use.*
- *Provision for business to set up and expand their business.*
- *Issues around roads, cycling, walking and disabled access.*
- *Development of schools, places of worship, health, leisure and entertainment facilities, community and youth centres and village halls.*
- *Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play area, parks and garden, and tree planting.*
- *Protection of important buildings and historic assets.*
- *Promotion of renewable energy projects.*

A formally adapted Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the statutory development for the area. There is a legal requirement for Bromsgrove District Council to take into account the contents of local Neighbourhood Plans when making future decisions on planning for those areas.

Parish Councils are required to work with members of their local community in the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

We wish to establish a 'Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group', which will consist of a combination of Parish Councillors and members of the local community, who are interested in working with us to develop this plan. In effect it is your plan so we need your input to ensure that we develop a plan that is fit for purpose for your community.

If any of you are interested in becoming a member of this steering group we would be grateful if you could register your interest with the Parish Clerk.

We will be arranging a meeting in the near future of all interested parties.

# WELCOME HALL

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

[www.welcomhallchurch.org](http://www.welcomhallchurch.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



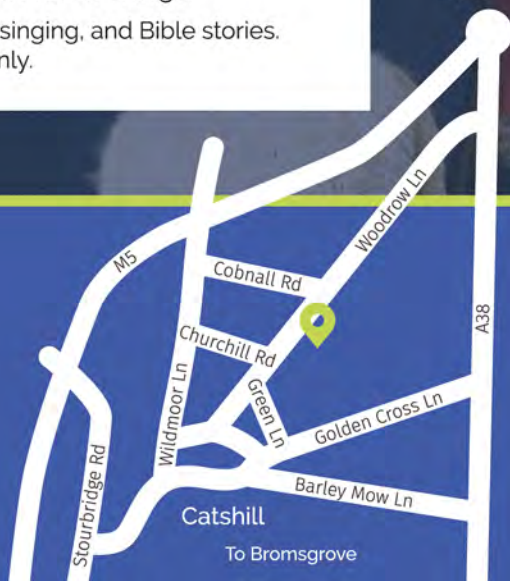
[office@welcomhallchurch.org](mailto:office@welcomhallchurch.org)



[www.welcomhallchurch.org](http://www.welcomhallchurch.org)



Pastor Jeremy Brooks:  
01527 758609



## *The Queen's 90th Birthday at Your Village Hall*

**THIS** year, in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday, Catshill Village Hall has purchased and erected a flag pole and Union Jack Flag which can now be seen flying proudly at the front of the Hall. Also, to celebrate this milestone birthday, there will be an Open Day held at the Village Hall on Saturday 11th June 2016 between 2.00pm-4.00pm and you are invited to call in and enjoy the occasion with a cup of tea and a piece of cake. Please take the opportunity to learn more about the Hall, what it does and how it is run to help support your community.

## *Your Village Hall – Can You Help?*

**CATSHILL** Village Hall is in urgent need of volunteers to join the Management Committee to help in the organisation, running and maintenance of the building. The committee meets approximately once a month to discuss matters, any problems arising, tasks to be allocated, fund raising, user's queries, and general operating issues. The Village Hall is a valuable asset to the community and provides a venue for many different activities. The tasks are not onerous but do need a regular commitment. There is no financial cost to volunteers, only time and effort. The results are rewarding and enjoyable.

If you are interested in offering assistance then please contact Jill and Andrew Bate on **01527 833342** or any other Trustee – please see the Website for further details available at <http://www.catshillvillagehall.co.uk/index.php?page=the-committee>

## *Remembrance Day Service*



**IN** October 2015 the War Memorial had a short rededication service, which was followed on 8th November by the annual Remembrance Day Service. This was extremely well attended, with the relocation of the service to the Catshill Club with a short service at the War Memorial continuing to draw larger audiences. It was especially touching to have the involvement of so many young people in the service. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those residents affected by the road closures for their c-operation. This process makes the event far safer and also quieter for key points in the service.





*The Bonfire takes shape.*

**DESPITE** the clash with Halloween this year, as it was held on 31st October 2015, the Bonfire and Firework event held on Catshill Meadow continues to be a huge success. The Parish Council are proud to be involved in the organisation of this community event and would like to Thank all those involved in the process, particularly the Scouts as they are instrumental in the smooth running and provision of food and drink for the evening. Due to the high volume of people we would like to advise residents who attend this year to take care when exiting the field following reports of people spilling into the road at the previous event. Obviously the safety of all is extremely important at events such as this and we thank you for your co-operation.

## Christmas For The Elderly, Isolated And Alone



**DO** you know someone who will be alone this Christmas? Do you know of a member of the village who is elderly and will not be able to enjoy Christmas as they should?

Catshill Village Hall has been booked on 21st December 2016 in order to provide Christmas dinner with all the trimmings for people who will have no family, live alone or are elderly and will be unable to provide for themselves this festive season. This free of charge event will enable up to 50 people, initially from the Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish, to enjoy entertainment including live music and a visit from the big man himself in the hopes of spreading some Christmas light and cheer to those most in need.

However, for this event to work we need your help. Although all the material elements of this event are in place to help our Community, the event has been funded and will be run by volunteers within the Parish; we now need assistance with identifying people who would benefit from such an inspiring, caring and thoughtful provision to enable us to invite them to the event. Eligible people include those who are over 60 years of age, living alone or as a couple with no family dependents, those registered with charitable bodies for lonely people and those who are immobile or disabled. If you have any suggestions of someone who would benefit from this, please contact the Clerk to the Council via [clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk) or **01527 873266/07813 671899** by 30th June 2016.

Alternatively, please find a cut off strip attached to the last page of this newsletter that can be posted to/put through the door of the Parish Office at **Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0JZ.**

April 2016

*Dear All,*

A year has passed since I last wrote – a year that seems to have passed very quickly. Easter is with us – I write on Easter Saturday, the Saturday after Easter Day. For those who are familiar with the Church year we now wait 50 days for Pentecost or Whitsun. Unlike Christmas and Easter, Pentecost is rarely observed these days except in Church and with one or two lingering Whit Walks. There is still a Whit Friday Brass Band Contest in and around Saddleworth. It used to coincide with the Whit Holiday Week but that is now fixed with Bank Holiday on the last Monday in May. I must look up if there were any traditions for Whitsun in Catshill.

The two names are based on the timing and events of the first Pentecost; that's the timing one, while Whitsun is the event – White Sunday – the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost in the church is the time we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples, which changed them from fearful men locked in an upper room to preachers who went out to tell of Jesus, crucified and risen. They then offered the invitation to believe and trust in Jesus, to be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit for themselves. We still celebrate this today and Churches Together in Bromsgrove are meeting from 3 pm on Sunday 15th May for Pentecost Praise in Sanders Park.

Spring is a lovely time of year as the trees begin to blossom and the leaves have that lovely new green look. And summer is not far ahead. Enjoy every moment that you can. Take time to appreciate the world around.

May God bless you always,

*Anne Smith*

*Minister of Catshill Methodist Church*

## *Tree Planting*



*Cllr. Malcolm Shephard Planting Trees.*

**THE** Parish Council is keen to continue to improve sites where it can in the village. Last year we obtained saplings from the Woodland Trust Free Tree programme and these were planted in the area of Catshill near the Balance Pool. The Parish Council will be obtaining a further 105 trees in the form of the Wildlife Pack which includes Oak trees, hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, silver birch and hazel trees in an attempt to further enhance the area and encourage more wildlife.

Sign up  
now!



# Great news, High Speed Fibre Broadband is available in your area!

The new Fibre network is almost complete in your area and the power of faster broadband is waiting for you!

To access this new network you will need to order a fibre broadband package through an internet service provider of your choice. We have a list of the main providers on our website [www.superfastworcestershire.com](http://www.superfastworcestershire.com) so that you can shop around and choose the best deal for you.

High speed fibre broadband at home means the whole family can be online at the same time – accessing more services, keeping in touch with family and friends, learning online or working from home.

**#SuperfastWorcs**  
[facebook.com/SuperfastWorcs](https://facebook.com/SuperfastWorcs)



Superfast Worcestershire is a partnership between



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BRITAIN**



# *Christmas for the Elderly, Isolated and Alone*

*Please detach/photocopy this slip and post to/put through door of Parish Office at Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0JZ*

*I would like to make a nomination for the Christmas Event to be held on 21st December 2016.*

Name of person nominating: .....

Contact details for person nominating: .....

Name of person(s) nominated for the event: .....

*because they are (please tick):*

Over 60  Live alone  Are immobile  Are disabled

Live as a couple but have no family dependents

Are registered with a charity for lonely people

Other: .....

Address of nominated person(s) .....

*I am happy to be contacted for further details. Signed:* .....



## *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*

Rebekah Powell, Clerk to the Council,  
Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council,  
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane,  
Catshill, BROMSGROVE. B61 0JZ.

Tel: **01527 873266** - Mob: **07813 671899**

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

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



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