

FIRST DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE PARISH

CATSHILL now has its first, of what we hope will be several, defibrillators. It has been installed on the Pavilion in the Meadows field, and was made possible by funding secured by the New Homes Bonus scheme. In February, the village hall was the venue for training on how to use the equipment. Rob Underwood, founder of Charlotte and Craig's Saving Hearts Foundation, supplied this training, and the event was very well attended. The defibrillator will be maintained by Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council.

A further unit will be sited at Catshill Baptist Church on completion of the building works, and following requests

from residents, there are also discussions underway to site another one at the Village Hall in Catshill. Although just outside our parish, it is important to know that Marlbrook also has a defibrillator unit housed in the telephone box on the Old Birmingham Road, near the junction with Marlbrook Lane.

As we get more of these important potentially life saving devices within our community, it is very important that as many people know how to use them as possible. If you are interested in learning how to use the defibrillators, then please contact the Parish Clerk on **01527 873266** - Mob: **07813 671899** or e-mail: clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk as there will be more training courses in the future.



*Rob Underwood conducting
defibrillator training.*



*The new defibrillator on the
Meadows Pavillion.*

Christmas Party



A very well received and successful Christmas party was held in Catshill Village Hall sponsored by a generous donation from one of our villagers and manned entirely by village volunteers.

This was so successful we are looking at holding another event this year.



Catshill And North Marlbrook Parish Council *Annual Parish Meeting*

Thursday 20th April 2017, 7.30pm

At Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane

*All residents of Catshill and North Marlbrook are
invited to discuss local issues*

*Take this opportunity to voice your thoughts and opinions about
your community – Your Parish, Your Meeting.*

During the meeting there will be annual reports from the County Councillor for the Woodvale Ward and District Councillors for Catshill & Marlbrook Wards plus presentations from local community groups.

***Mike Webley; Volunteer Local Representative from the Alzheimer's Society and Dementia Friends Champion will give a talk entitled:
'What does it mean to live in a Dementia Friendly Community?
How can we help?'***

A presentation will be given by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

There will also be a chance for you to discuss parish issues.

Refreshments will be available from 7.00pm



HELLO again everyone.

There has been a great deal of activity in the village since our previous magazine, much of it you should find in these pages.

The Neighbourhood Plan initiative is really taking off with a good cross section of individuals involved in the Steering Group, however, they are going to require a good number of volunteers in the various working groups covering issues such as Housing, Infrastructure and Environment; so please get involved - they need you.

The Steering group is chaired by Doc. Chris Fabray and incidentally the Christmas Party he sponsored for the older members of our Parish was a great success. It was heart-warming to see all of the volunteers working at transporting people to the event, cooking the food, Councillors and other volunteers serving the food, and even an old Paratrooper arriving on his mobility scooter and acting as Father Christmas. Those that were guests asked me to mention in this mag that it was the best ever and say a big **Thank You** to all involved. It was a massive effort in organisation and planning that was well executed.

So back to the Neighbourhood Plan there will be a high profile team asking you to complete a **Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire**. Please do so to enable the team to statistically analyse your collective replies and provide you with a balanced plan of your priorities in order to take the plan to its next stage, allowing your further perusal and consultation. This can be done on line by visiting the Parish Web site and following the link or by obtaining a hard copy of the questionnaire from the Village Hall or other locations that will be posted on the web site. Additionally, you will find a copy on the middle pages of this magazine that can be completed and cut off for return. This is important to the future of your village.

The Ladies toilet is now complete and open in your village hall (very posh). We will try and bring the Gents to a similar standard. I thanked everyone by name in our last issue, however thank you again to everyone that made this possible.

There are going to be two or possibly three defibrillators located in the village in the very near future. Watch out for the training programmes and get involved; you may be able to save a life.

I understand we are not using our village library enough. If it is not used and funding is removed, it will be a great loss.

The main areas of concern reported within the village are still Traffic related; speeding, parking spaces, inconsiderate parking etc. This is difficult to address but be assured your Council is putting every effort into trying to solve the problem.

Do please attend our Annual Parish meeting on April the 20th at your Village Hall; have a listen, a cup of tea and maybe give your views.

Owen



WE have in Catshill, a fabulous facility in the local community library, located to the left of Catshill Middle School, via its own separate entrance. It is a small and intimate space, that many people prefer to the larger libraries.

There is a good stock of fiction and non-fiction books catering for all ages and interests, from books for babies and young children through to the latest fiction for adults and all for **Free**. In addition you can

borrow audio books and DVDs from £1.40 per week.

As well as lending books, the library offers a number of other services and holds regular events:

- **Reservations of stock can easily be made, for a small fee.**
- **There are 4 PCs for Internet browsing and a printer, ideal if you do not have a computer.**
- **A photocopier, at present the only one publicly available in the area.**
- **Every Monday at 10:00 a.m. a song & rhyme session for babies and toddlers**
- **On the 2nd Monday of each month, an adult readers group at 6:30 p.m.**
- **On the first Saturday of each month, a storytime session for younger children at 10:30 a.m.**

BorrowBox is a new service that makes it easy to browse, borrow and listen to the library's eAudiobooks and eBooks anywhere, everywhere.

Install the app for Apple, Android or Amazon Fire devices or download to a PC then simply login with your membership details to access the library's collection.



Each year, the Parish Council sponsors the Summer Reading Challenge. A number of youngsters joined the challenge last year and received their certificates at a special event last October.

***Catshill Community Library, Catshill Middle School, Meadow Road,
Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0JW***

Monday - 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday - 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Closed

Thursday - 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Friday - 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



The War Memorial with the wreaths.

AS usual, the annual Remembrance Day commemoration was well-attended by the people of the area on Sunday 13th November last year.

A short service was held in Catshill Social Club at 10:00 a.m. with proceedings then moving across the road to the War Memorial for the act of remembrance. Thanks go to Rev. Simon Gudger of Catshill Baptist Church for conducting both services this year.

Before the two-minutes silence at 11:00am, the names of the men on the Memorial were read out by Will Collier from Catshill Scouts, Emily Rutter from Catshill Middle School, Glenys Blackmoor on behalf of the Royal British Legion and Jill Bate from the Parish Council. Our thanks go to all the readers, including Chad Mace from Catshill Middle School who read *"The Send Off"* by Wilfred Owen; to his credit he recited it from memory. Many thanks must also go to bugler Paul Hatton for playing The Last Post and Reveille, members of Royal British Legion for reciting the Kohima Epitaph, and the superb Blackwell Concert Band who provided the music at both venues.

Finally, our thanks go to Catshill Social Club for allowing us to serve refreshments there after the service, and to Andrew Bate who was on hand to assist anyone wishing to find out more about the local men who died in both world wars.

As usual we had to make road closures to ensure the safety of those attending the event. Unfortunately this year there was a little delay in removing the barriers, and we would like to apologise to local residents who were affected by this.



Crowds gather to pay their respects.



Road Barriers are removed.

Catshill Baptist Church Building



community they needed to modernise their church hall, catering facilities and also increase the floor space available to accommodate the groups and organisations that they support.

Modernising in this case meant demolishing the old hall so that a new larger one can be built. These photographs show where the original hall was, and where the new larger hall will be.

Once all the improvements have been completed, the church feel that the building will be able to meet its current and most importantly, its future demands.

IT'S always exciting to see building improvements taking place, but often in order to create new improved buildings, older buildings have to be demolished first. This is the case with Catshill Baptist Church who decided that in order to extend their service to the local



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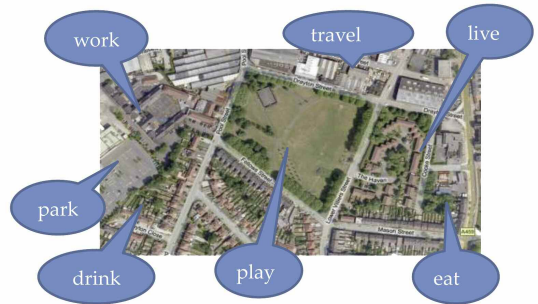
“It is with regret that the Parish Council needs to inform residents of the sudden and saddening death of Councillor Patrick Callaway on 21st February 2017 following the effects of a Stroke. Patrick was an invaluable member of the Parish Council having spent his career as a Clerk before retirement and was an extremely kind, knowledgeable and approachable man who will be greatly missed.”

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

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.**



Neighbourhood Plans are primarily about the use and development of land and could include the following;

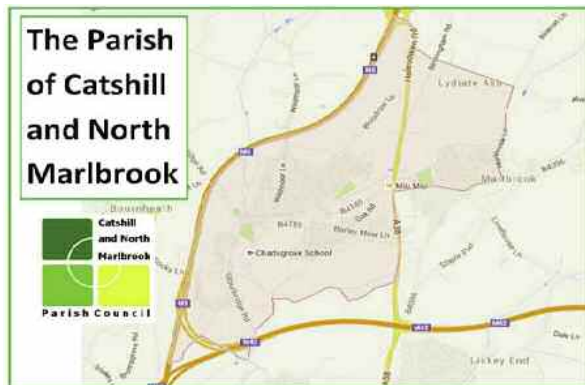
- **Housing developments, including affordable homes, and bringing vacant and derelict housing back into use.**
- **Provision for business to set up and expand their business.**
- **Issues around roads, cycling, walking and disabled access.**
- **Development of schools, places of worship, health, leisure 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.**

Why is a Neighbourhood Plan so important! - because it puts *You* in control and -

- **Sets out what our community wants regarding:**
 - Environment, conservation and green space
 - Types of Housing and Design
 - Local Economy, amenities and shops
 - Society Community and Culture
 - Transport, Parking and Pollution

- Controls Undesirable ad-hoc development
- It is our community's vision and strategy for the future up to the year 2030.
- The completed Neighbourhood Plan will be approved by a local referendum and will then carry legal weight in the planning process.

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. The District Plan has just been agreed by the Council and more houses will need to be built by 2030 to meet Government targets.



Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish has now been designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area

A Steering Group under the authority of the Parish Council has been set up to oversee the completion of a Neighbourhood plan for this Area. The initial consultation is fully under way and an explanatory leaflet has been produced together with a questionnaire to collect people's views on the important issues for

them within Catshill Parish. Drop in workshops are being held in the Village Hall on Saturday 13th May and Saturday 24th June between 11am and 2pm.

How can I become involved?

Your views are really important!

- Attend Steering group meetings
- Join a working group looking at a particular topic, like housing, environment or infrastructure
- Attend open days and other events
- Send your views by post, email or by hand to the Parish office.

Fill in and return the Questionnaire to:

**Rebekah Powell, Clerk to the Council,
Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council,
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, BROMSGROVE. B61 0JZ.
e-mail: clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk**

**To shape the future of *Your* Neighbourhood,
make *Your* views count.**

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

A neighbourhood plan is being prepared for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish because under the Localism Act 2011 these plans grant new rights and powers to local communities to enable them to shape the future development of their areas. It gives those who live, work or own land and property in the Parish the chance to suggest how land might best be used in the future, what facilities and services are needed and those features or assets which they identify as being important to safeguard for the future.

The aim of this short questionnaire is to ascertain what is important to you, particularly the issues and challenges in the Parish. This will identify the main priorities for the plan in order to guide the work of the neighbourhood planning group.

Q1. Please indicate how strongly you feel about the following topics:

	1 - Least	2	3	4	5 - Most
Local Jobs					
Traffic Levels/congestion					
Parking					
Public Transport					
Open spaces/play areas					
Flood Prevention					
Wild Life					
Additional shops					
Local amenities e g village hall					
Local schools					
GP surgery					

Q2. The District Council may allocate further housing developments to the Parish in the next few years to help it meet national targets. How important are the following issues to you?

	1 - least	2	3	4	5 - Most
Balance of 'private'/affordable/social/retirement type housing					
Mix of house sizes constructed - family to single person					
New housing spread throughout the Parish					
New housing is concentrated in one or two areas					
Control of ad-hoc housing development					

Q3. What local services do you tend to use?

	Never	Infrequently	Frequently
Butcher			
Corner shops			
Fast food outlets			
Hairdressers			
Mini-supermarkets			
Petrol station			
Pharmacy			
Public House			
Religious Buildings			
Cash machines			
Dentist			
Coach service			
Other -			



Q4. What additional services and facilities are needed in the Parish? (Please List)

Q5. What do you regard as the top three reasons that make it attractive to live in the Parish?

1:
2:
3:

Q6. What do you regard as the top three issues which detract from living in the Parish?

1:
2:
3:

Finally what have we missed?

Please write anything you think we've missed or that you feel strongly about in this box.

This survey is anonymous but it would help to know if we are getting as wide a range of views as possible. It would therefore be very useful if you could provide the following information:

(Please tick in appropriate box)

Gender	(Description)									
Age	Under 18		18 - 30		31 - 50		51 - 70		Over 70	
Postcode										

Please return completed questionnaires in the boxes provided, by post or email to clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Should you wish to get involved in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan please contact the Parish Clerk, Rebekah Powell.

REGULAR readers will know that we always like to feature a photograph from our past, showing how parts of the Parish have changed. Once again we are delighted to



share a photograph taken by the late Dr R. A. F. Jack, which have been supplied by Martin Wells.

It shows Church Road, Catshill, and was almost certainly taken in the early 1970s. It clearly shows the tall white house known as the "Laurels" which at one time was the Nailmasters house, along with the adjoining buildings that were for many years part of the Premier Bin Manufacturing Company.

All of these buildings were demolished to make way for Marsh Way.

If you have any interesting old photographs of the Parish that you would like to share, then please let us know.

If you are interested in our previous old photographs, then you can view them on our website which contains previous editions of our newsletter.

Cllr. Paul Masters.

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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



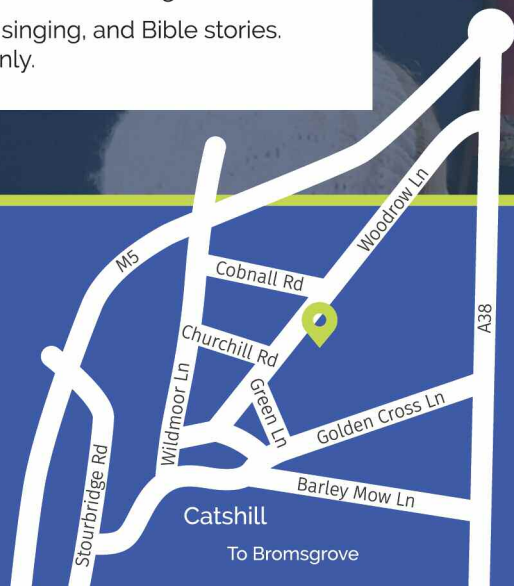
office@welcomehallchurch.org



www.welcomehallchurch.org



Pastor Jeremy Brooks:
01527 758609



WE had another successful Bonfire & Fireworks event at the Meadow on the 5th November 2016. Around 1000 people attended the event. Although it was a cold night we were fortunate that it remained a dry evening.

A debrief of the event has recently taken place. It has been agreed that the amount of money contributed to the local scout group for their involvement in the event will be significantly increased. Further work to improve lighting at the event and to address safety issues, the provision of adequate toilets, and improved marshalling of the event will be considered.



The bonfire starts to take shape.



The bonfire is complete.

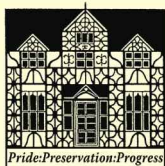
and their assistance on the night. This year we will be increasing the fee we pay to the Association to aid with the expensive grass cutting throughout the year.



The Scouts prepare the catering.



Re-seeding where the bonfire was.



The 31st Bromsgrove Lecture

held by The Bromsgrove Society

7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 11th April

“Beneath Your Feet, Behind the Façade: Bromsgrove’s Archaeological Heritage.”

given by

Rob Hedge

in the Memorial Chapel, Bromsgrove School.

Rob Hedge is a Community Project Officer at Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. He also deals with finds and was involved in the Digbromsgrove project.



Tickets are **£6** can be purchased from: Foto Factory, 123 High Street, Bromsgrove.
or by telephoning: **01527 877227**

🐦 : @bromsgrovesoc - @robhedge - @explorethepast www.bsoc.co.uk

Dog Fouling

THE Parish Council have recently received several complaints about dog fouling in this area. I think we can all agree that this is a really unpleasant, unhygienic and antisocial problem. To be forced to clean footwear after inadvertently stepping into dog mess must be at the top of the list of obnoxious tasks (don't even think about trainers with deep tread patterns!) It is also a serious health hazard. Dog faeces contain harmful bacteria, and possibly roundworm eggs which can cause illness or, even, blindness in children.

If you are aware of a badly fouled area, you can contact Bromsgrove Environmental Services, Council's Street Scene (01527 881188) so that they can deal with it.

If you are walking your dog, please take a disposal bag with you and pick up after your dog. Bagged waste can be disposed of in any Council dog litter bin or litter bin (most litter bins are now marked for use for both litter or dog waste), or take it home for disposal. Dog bag dispensers are located at strategic locations throughout the area, but failure to have a bag with you or lack of a nearby bin is not an excuse. Remember, failing to pick up after your dog is an offence which can be subject to a spot fine!

**SCOOP
THAT POOP**



FOR a number of years now your parish council has funded a Christmas tree for all to enjoy over the festive season. We have always positioned it outside the Village Hall, so that those visiting the various shops in Golden Cross Lane can appreciate it. I think all who saw the tree this Christmas just gone, will agree that it looked splendid. Just the right size, in just the right place and beautifully decorated with multi-coloured lights. If you did miss it, then take a look at these two photographs of it, and don't forget to watch out for the next one in December 2017!

Village Walks



Join the **Bromsgrove Society** on 27th June and 2nd July for a walk around Catshill looking at places and buildings associated with people, work and events in the village, where nailmaking, market gardening and chapel life were important influences.

1. June 27th – 6.30 p.m. from Catshill Library

2. July 2nd – 1.45 p.m. from Catshill Village Hall

Each walk is £3 per ticket with refreshments after the walk.

To book – ring **01527 877227** – places are limited – ticket only

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

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Published by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

TWO areas of great concern from residents within Catshill is both speeding and parking. These issues are difficult to address, but the Parish Council do their best to assist with these matters.

Parking

West Mercia Police are also aware that inconsiderate, poor parking is one of the public's biggest concerns. There is an interesting article relating to this at www.westmercia.police.uk/article/5987/Parking. Within this article it does state that if you have a problem with illegal and inconsiderate parking in your community you can raise concerns with your local policing team in order to progress with this situation. The Safer Neighbourhood Team for our area is Bromsgrove North and Rural and further details can be found at www.westmercia.police.uk/article/2186/Bromsgrove-North-and-Rural The direct email address for the team is bnr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk. Alternatively, by contacting the Parish Council, we can process your concern in this way too.

Speeding

If you have any concerns regarding speeding within the Parish you can contact the Parish Council who will liaise with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team within West Mercia Police. Further information about this team can be found at the following link: www.westmercia.police.uk/article/2186/Bromsgrove-North-and-Rural They will in turn liaise with the Safer Road Partnership, who, once they receive a request, will collect speed data at the site to establish if there is a speeding issue and to determine the nature of the speeding problem if one exists.

Please continue to assist us to monitor this issue within the Parish. A particular area of concern at present is the Stourbridge Road and the Parish Council are liaising with the relevant agencies to obtain speed surveys in this area.

Proposed 20mph speed limit

Due to the lack of Highway safety in the Catshill area, Members are minded to approach Worcestershire County Council with a proposition to impose a 20mph speed limit around the area of the new Co-operative store but to also extend the length of Meadow Road and encompass the entrances to all three schools in order to assist with the safety of Parents and children accessing the sites. This has letters of support from all schools and the Parish Council will also be consulting the Co-op for their views. There is currently a pilot being carried out in Rubery to ascertain if 20mph speed limit signs have any effect on traffic. If this is deemed to be unsuccessful, any application we make would not be accepted. However, in the hope that the pilot will be successful, the Parish Council wish to continue with the application to WCC. Prior to this, it is important that we consult with residents. If you have any strong views regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

