



For up to date information about the Parish Council and what is happening in this parish visit our website -

<http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/>

Find out who your councillors are, read the minutes of past meetings, see a map of the parish and check out local services.

What's on in your Parish

Sunday 18th July 1.30pm - 5.30pm Marlbrook Gardens will be open

Sunday 15th August 1.30pm -5.30pm Marlbrook Gardens will be open

Saturday 11th September 6.30pm to 10pm Marlbrook Gardens will be open

First and third Monday in each month. M & C Friendship Club meet in Catshill Village Hall from 2pm. Contact Anne Glendenning on 01527 882169.

The Royal British Legion, Lickey End Branch covers this parish. It meets on the first Wednesday in the month at Lickey End Club, starting at 7 pm. For more information contact Alan Kelly 0121 445 2574

The Parish Council meet on the last Thursday of each month, except August and December, in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. All parishioners are welcome at these meetings.

For a comprehensive list of the activities within the parish, check out our website....

<http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/>

If you would like to be mentioned in the next What's on section or be included in the listing on the website, please contact the clerk, details below.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Bromsgrove District Council: 01527 881288
Out of hours emergency: 01527 871 565

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

CONTACT US

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

Parish Council telephone: 07813 671 899
e-mail: clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Published by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council



Chairman's Welcome

I am pleased to say that the council is once again at full strength and we welcome the new representatives for the Catshill Village Ward.

The council began its new financial year at the beginning of April. You will be pleased to know that your councillors have delivered new projects throughout the parish whilst staying in budget. The old concrete bus shelter on the Stourbridge Road has been replaced and the future of the bus shelter on the Birmingham Road is under consideration.

We are hoping the garden competition this year will produce better results after the long winter delayed the germination of plants. I hope the entries this year will be bigger and brighter and urge everyone with a front garden to have a go at doing their best! The Parish Council is looking into the creation of a new garden at the junction of Braces Lane and Birmingham Road to bring colour to this area.

The VE Day commemoration event held at the village hall and organised by the Parish Council was well supported. I thank all our residents who came along to share their memories as well as the members of The Royal British Legion. Thanks also to all those involved in making this such a success.



Gordon Witcomb, Chairman

The council is considering whether to revive the Catshill Music Festival and would like to hear from you if you are involved in anything musical. I encourage everyone to participate in the events throughout the parish, come to the monthly meetings, visit our website, and bring your ideas to us.

ADVERT 1

ADVERT 2

POLICE REPORT

As a result of the last PACT meeting, Bromsgrove North Local Policing Team has been working hard to tackle the problem of anti social behaviour which predominantly occurs in the Catshill area. Along with local youth workers we have been identifying the gaps and putting forward suggestions to work towards improving facilities and opportunities for young people. This is an ongoing project and we hope that things will continue to improve.



Cop Cards

West Mercia Police has launched an exciting way to inform children about the work that the police force does in the area - collectable Cop Cards. There are 25 playing cards for children aged 7-14 to collect, with each one showing pictures and a description of different policing roles throughout West Mercia. There is also one special Cop Card to find, which has a unique web address giving extra hidden content. The prize for 5 lucky winners is a day at police headquarters in Worcester, where they will meet police officers and have a behind-the-scenes look at the way the force works. Cop Cards can be collected from police station front counters and by speaking to the local Community Support Officers.

Catshill and Marlbrook Local Policing Team

Telephone: **01527 583733 / 0300 333 3000**

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

View the PACT pages via Parish Council website
<http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk>

The War Memorial

About six years ago, the Parish Council commissioned local resident Andrew Bate to research the names of the men on the War Memorial. Andrew was successful in finding out much information, surprisingly more about the men from the First World War. As a result of his efforts we now know the area in which they lived, their family at the time, with which regiment they served and when and where they died. We also uncovered several interesting stories of gallantry and valour. This information is now kept in a bound volume at Christ Church, Catshill, and can be viewed by contacting the vicarage (phone 01527 579619). A copy is also available at Catshill Library in Barley Mow Lane. However, our research is not complete and we believe it is possible that a number of their relatives still live in Catshill and Marlbrook. If so, we would be delighted to hear from you, particularly if you have any additional stories or information about your ancestor that you would be willing for us to add to the archive. Photographs too would be very much appreciated. If you would like to discuss this further then please contact Cllr Phil Baker on 01527 870861 or via e-mail to p.baker@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk.



Parish Council finances

The accounts have been balanced for another year and are currently lodged with the auditor. At their meeting in April the councillors approved the figures for the financial year ending 31/03/2010, as shown here in brief.

<u>Income</u>	
Precept (that's our portion of the council tax paid by nearly 2,000 households from within the parish)	£20,312
Other receipts, such as concurrent functions	£3,272
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Staff costs (administration officer and litter picker)	£7,626
Other payments such as environmental improvements, grant aid, new bus shelters etc.	£15,048

The precept for the current financial year 2010/11 is £21,327.

The Parish Council would like to find out how you, the residents of the parish, want future funds to be spent and we will be holding a 'Participatory Budgeting' event later in the year. For instance, if you know of an area of open space in the parish that needs attention or you may like to see a scheme set up to encourage across-community help for the less able, then please do get involved. Notices of the event will be published nearer the date, please also see item on page 4.

Public Transport — Bus Information Online

An independent public transport website has been launched that contains the latest up-to-date bus timetable, bus operator and related travel information for Worcestershire and the surrounding counties of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and the West Midlands. The website includes special search functions, cross-boundary service details, automatic updates of service changes, journey planning and route maps. All this and more can be found by logging in to www.worcestershirebus.info

Catshill Fish Bar

139 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill.

01527 876318

15% discount on presentation of this voucher on orders over £10



15% discount on orders over £10 with this voucher

Hopwood Ladies Cycling Club - 'Fit For Anything'

Summer is here and there is no better time to start that fitness regime you have been promising yourself. We all know that being fitter benefits not only your health but also many other aspects of your life, but where do you start? The Hopwood Ladies Cycling Club, which draws its members from Worcestershire and Birmingham, is happy to welcome any lady who might be thinking of improving their fitness and wellbeing. Rides are organised during the week and at weekends and all riders, whatever their age and ability, are fully supported by the ride leader and the group. A few hours of physical exercise in the company of friends and in the great outdoors really does help to put life back in balance. If you are tempted to don your helmet and dust off the handlebars why not come along for a trial ride to join in the fun and see how you might benefit? Full details can be found online at www.hopwoodladiescyclingclub.co.uk or by calling Deb on 07738982161.

Editor's note: this ties in with the Parish Council's Parish Plan support for healthy lifestyles.



Parish Council notices

The Parish Council meets at Catshill Village Hall on the last Thursday of each month except for August and December. The notice and agenda for each of these meetings is attached to the council's notice boards located at the Ivy Gardens in Golden Cross Lane and outside Tesco Express on the Old Birmingham Road.

You do not have to be a parish councillor to attend these meetings – they are all open to the public and you are invited to speak near the start of the meeting if you have a concern about any agenda item.

Throughout the course of the month other agendas will appear relating to Parish Council committee meetings which are also open to the public. The notice boards contain further information relating to the Parish Council such as the Publication Scheme ie those documents that are available for public inspection, and general information on councillors' allowances.

During the year there will be a notice to let you know the audit has been called and your rights regarding the Parish Council's accounts to ensure full public accountability and trust. Additionally all this information is also available on the Parish Council's website.

In case you do not know, the extent of the parish falls within the M5/M42 boundary from the Washingstocks island on the Stourbridge Road up to Catshill Garage, then eastwards to Lydiate Ash island and the south side of the Alvechurch Highway to the cross roads with Marlbrook Lane, the east sides of which lie in Lickey and Blackwell Parish. From there the parish is bordered by the Old Birmingham Road, Braces Lane and Birmingham Road (A38) as far south as the new Topaz building site.

Catshill – Can You Belong?

Article Written By: Rev Neil Bennett – Minister Catshill Baptist Church

Last week I was stopped by a motorist who was travelling down Golden Cross Lane. It often happens these days, even with the advent of faster and thinner 'Sat-Nav's' people still get lost. The gentleman concerned was miles off course, but what intrigued me was how he began his conversation, **"excuse me do you belong around here?"** what he meant was, 'do you live around here?' and he did quickly correct himself. What he asked me did get me thinking, do I really belong here in Catshill? What an interesting question! Have you ever asked it of yourself?

Having lived in Catshill with my wife Karen and our two children Christopher and Hannah for just over six years, and having been part of this community's life as one of the local Christian ministers, I would like to say, unreservedly, **YES** I absolutely do feel as though I belong. But why, why do I feel like that? Well I guess it all boils down to this; I actually think Catshill is a place to which you can belong.

Catshill is full of interesting people from different backgrounds. Some, like my daughter Hannah, are proper '**Swede's**', in other words people who are born in Catshill. Others have emigrated from London and even further afield. Yet the one thing we have in common is that we are part of a village, just on the outskirts of Birmingham, and a village that encourages you to belong.

Don't believe me? Well think about the evidence. The Bromsgrove Day of Kindness was started by my good friend Phil, a man from Catshill. What about the Catshill Fun Day on June 12th this year? An opportunity for the whole community to come together on the Memorial Meadow, and celebrate all that is so good about living in Catshill.

Remembrance Sunday has become a huge community event. In recent years we have held the service in the middle school because of ever increasing numbers. It doesn't stop there!

There are so many groups and organisations run in the different, Christian churches who cater for all ages. It doesn't matter whether you are 9 months or 90 years there will be something for you at Catshill Baptist Church, Catshill Methodist Church, Welcome Hall, or Catshill Christ Church. I haven't even mentioned the social club, county youth club, and many other projects, societies, groups, and organisations. There is so much with which you be could be involved. Why not check out the Parish Council website to find out more?

Catshill is definitely a place where **YOU** can belong. But every relationship takes two people, so what will you do? My prayer is that all of us, will work together to make Catshill a place where everyone feels that they can truly belong.

God Bless you all.

Participatory Budgeting

At the annual Parish Council Meeting, Cllr Phil Baker gave a presentation about participatory budgeting. Well, what is participatory budgeting?

Wikipedia defines it as this:

“Participatory budgeting is a process of democratic deliberation and decision making in which ordinary residents decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget”. As a result the Parish Council will involve residents in how best to spend a particular element of the budget, discuss and make proposals for spending in the future. It is generally believed that having a broader participation in budget setting will increase the interest in and accountability of public bodies, thereby showing that it is not just a consultation exercise, but having democracy in action. However, Participatory Budgeting is not a cure for problems of local democracy, poor public services and traditional representation such as elected councillors, as it operates alongside other processes. As an aside, Participatory Budgeting started life in Brazil about 30 years ago and many countries, especially in the third world, have implemented successful schemes. Canada has adopted its own progressive model.

Before the Parish Council discusses this matter further, we would like feedback on the following two questions:

- 1 What is the best method of consulting everybody on how a particular pot of money should be spent?
 - An open meeting?
 - Questionnaires to each household?
 - Via technology - email / Facebook?
 - Or any other options?
- 2 What elements of the Parish Council budget should be delegated to parish residents rather than decided by the councillors?
 - Recreation facilities?
 - Environmental matters?
 - Public events?
 - Anything else?

If you have any views on the above then we welcome your feedback. Please contact the clerk either by email or letter; contact details on back page.

Planning

Planning applications can now be viewed on line; to see them log onto <http://appuview.bromsgrove.gov.uk>. and enter either the application number or the address details.

Summer Flower Competition.

Every year the Parish Council seeks out three hard working gardeners who have clearly been making an effort to brighten up the community with plants and flowers. The task facing this year's judges will be to track down the most attractive flowering container or flower bed, which must be visible from the road. Judges will tour the parish during the last week of July before awarding the prizes of gardening vouchers to the value of £25, £15 and £10. If you would like to nominate a neighbour or friend who you think has the potential to be a worthy winner, please drop us a line. Winners will be notified by post and listed on the Parish Council's website.

MARLBROOK GARDENS



Round Hill Garden

Three original and stunning gardens, each created and built by their owners; widely contrasting styles and topography from gentle slopes to steep terraces of a former quarry, with an ever growing reputation for excellence.

Garden styles include jungle, traditional and cottage garden, all overflowing with an abundance of plants for sun and shade, including rare and exotics. Vegetable areas, streams, ponds and patios, along with artefacts, sculptures, glass houses and special interest collections add to the individuality of the gardens.

The three open days come to a close with an extravaganza evening in September with hundreds of lights illuminating the three gardens from dusk.

Three Gardens open to the public for the National Gardens Scheme charity, all within walking distance of each other.

“A Unique Trio of Gardens” Daily Mail Weekend Magazine 2008.

As published in the Daily Telegraph 2009 — ‘Experience the Difference’ by calling on three of the “50 great small gardens to visit”.



Saranacris

The three gardens are located in Birmingham Road and Braces Lane, Marlbrook.

For more details contact: Janet Morgan — email: saranacris@btinternet.com or navigate to the Marlbrook Gardens web pages via the Parish Council website

Opening times are listed on the What's On section, on the back page of this newsletter.



Oak Tree House