

*Delivered to 3000 Households*

# Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

## *Newsletter Summer 2013*

### *A Message from the New Chair*

**WELCOME** to my first article as Parish Council Chairman. I would like to start by thanking my predecessor, Gordon Witcomb, for the sterling work he has done over the years. In the first few months of tenure I have met with many of the stakeholders in the community, with more meetings planned. I was privileged to take part in some of the PACT Walkabouts organised by Cllr Helen Jones in Catshill. Helen, our Community Support officers Kirsten and Sarah, and myself walked many miles, in what were some of the hottest few days of the year. I thank all of the residents who came and spoke to us, and offered refreshments. I particularly find these informal PACT meetings an invaluable way in which you, the parishioners, can raise concerns on any local issue. It is hoped that more PACT Walkabouts will be arranged in



the coming months covering the rest of Catshill and North Marlbrook with District Councillor Dr Cooper joining the team.

We had good weather for Catshill Fun Day this year, and it was pleasing to see so many visitors to the Parish Council's Gazebo. Later this summer we will be judging the parish floral competition and I am looking forward to seeing some wonderful and colourful displays throughout the parish. As advance notice I would like to take this opportunity to point out that we will once again

be working with the scouts to stage the annual bonfire and firework display, which will take place this year on Saturday 2nd November on Catshill Meadow.

As your Parish Council we are working on a few projects in the area and I look forward to reporting on these in the next newsletter.

## *Award Winning Team Bring Ivy Cottage Garden Back to Life*



**THE** Ivy Cottage Garden, off Golden Cross Lane, is a source of great pleasure to many right in the heart of Catshill, and just like the Diamond Jubilee Garden in Marlbrook it certainly adds a special dimension to our parish environment. However, over recent years it was noted that the raised formal planting bed had not produced the abundant floral displays we had hoped for or had been used to in the past.

So this year we decided to do something different and you will see that the bed is now back to its former glory thanks to a Chelsea Flower Show (RHS) award-winning team from the Birmingham Parks department who are based in nearby Cofton Park.

We are sure you will agree they have done a superb job!

## *Bus Shelters*

**THE** bus shelters in Catshill vary in appearance from the new ones provided by the Parish Council in Meadow Road and Stourbridge Road to the less new and downright ancient on Birmingham Road, Gibb Lane and elsewhere. The Parish Council is seeking clarification from the County Council and District Council regarding ownership and responsibility for these other shelters and it is hoped that a scheme of improvement will be started in the near future.

Of particular concern is the Gibb Lane shelter which, at busy times, causes an obstruction for passing pedestrians. If funds are available and as long as all



stakeholders are willing to make a difference, then it is hoped to improve this particular site.

We would love to hear from anyone with suggestions for improving our environment.

## *Volunteer – Make a Difference!*

**ONside** is a registered charity providing independent advocacy and mentoring to vulnerable adults facing disadvantage through mental and physical ill health, learning disability and old age, depression, dementia, autism, learning difficulties. We provide our service across Worcestershire and we are currently looking to train more volunteers from this area.

Advocacy is a way of supporting and empowering people to ensure that they have their voice heard and their wishes made known to others and we are looking for volunteers to provide this support in their local area. It can involve just supporting someone attending appointments, gaining access to services, benefit review support and information gathering.

Mentoring volunteers are needed to provide a supportive and reliable relationship to people who would otherwise be socially isolated. Opportunities are also available to support local groups which focus on gardening, art, walking and social activities, which take place in the volunteers local area..

Georgina one of our volunteers recently commented:-

“I thoroughly enjoy my time with the interest

group and always look forward to attending. The group is really interesting with lots of informative guest speakers; we undertake activities each week that support recovery. Volunteering with Onside is really rewarding as they provide a great training programme and lots of support which allows me to gain new skills, meet new people and give back to my community”

Onside’s Volunteer Co-ordinator, Claire Watkins, said “Our volunteers give their time, their passion and enthusiasm, we need continued help from willing volunteers who would enjoy supporting vulnerable people in their local community.”

Volunteering with Onside is a flexible commitment; as little as 4 hours a month can be given with full training and the option to work towards an Open College Network qualification offered.

Volunteers enjoy the flexible aspect of our work along with the chance to join in at our local social events we run for volunteers including quiz nights and coffee mornings.

If you are interested in finding out more, or keen to do something amazing, please contact Claire on **01905 27525** or e-mail [volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk)

## *Important Competition Update*

**AS** usual your parish council are running a “**Best Floral Display**” competition, where we encourage all those that can to put on a colourful floral display that can be seen from the road. This display may be in tubs, baskets or even the garden itself – anything that catches the eye of the judges. You do not need to register your entry because several parish councillors will tour the parish to agree who should win first, second and third prizes of £25, £15 and £10 in garden vouchers.

The winners will be announced in the next edition and on the parish council website, so good luck everyone, and thank you for brightening up our community.

We will no longer be hosting the annual Christmas lights competition, but we hope you will all continue to make the parish as bright and colourful over the Christmas period as ever! The good news is that the Parish Council has decided to redirect the prize money towards the purchase of its own Christmas tree and lights which, with thanks to the village hall committee, will be placed outside Catshill Village Hall over the Christmas period for everyone to enjoy.



## *Lions Club Bromsgrove*

**WHAT** do you think of when you see the words **Bromsgrove Lions' Club**? Is it a rugby club or perhaps a football supporters' club? Few people would think of the local branch of **Lions Clubs International**, one of the largest service organisations in the world.

Over the last 33 years, Bromsgrove Lions' Club has helped both individuals and groups within the local community in a variety of ways. At times, this has meant keeping a garden tidy for someone too ill to do it for themselves and, at others, giving grants towards special pieces of equipment to improve someone's quality of life. Maintaining a garden for patients at a hospital and making donations to local



schools toward the cost of specific projects are also regular ways the club helps others.

While fundraising and helping others, Lions also enjoy themselves. Working together creates friendships, and with regular social events such as a fish and chip supper on The Severn Valley Railway, a visit to The National Arboretum at

Alrewas or, perhaps, just a meal at a local pub, members also have fun.

If you are interested in finding out more about Bromsgrove Lions Club or would like to attend a meeting please 'phone **08458 339625**. Alternatively, visit the web site [www.bromsgrovelions.org.uk](http://www.bromsgrovelions.org.uk) or email [secretary@bromsgrovelions.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bromsgrovelions.org.uk).

## *Church Road Housing Development*

**CALA** Homes recently announced that Bovis Homes would be taking on the development of the land off Church Road that has planning approval for 80 new homes.

Bovis are keen continue to communicate with residents and aim to build the new homes with the minimum disruption possible in order to deliver a “desirable development that will provide much-needed homes in this attractive area”.

It appears that the on-site manager is happy to liaise with interested residents on issues of concern such as dust suppression, lorry parking, access, fencing, care for the watercourse and planting.

Until the site set up has got underway Lorries that may appear to be parked on the service road are merely waiting to access the development for deliveries. This should cease when space has been created to allow vehicles to access the site properly.

The Parish Council has met with representatives from Bovis Homes, and continue to have regular dialogue with them.



## *Thank You Gordon*

**ON** Thursday 30th May 2013, the Parish Council held its annual meeting at Catshill Village Hall where the first item of business was for members to elect the Chairman. As can be seen in the Chairs Report in this newsletter, the former vice-chairman Cllr. Alan Kelly was elected to the role, replacing Cllr. Gordon Witcomb.

This then seems an appropriate time to thank Gordon for all his hard work as Chairman over the last six years where he has, with the support of all the other councillors, achieved so much: -

Gordon played an important role in assisting with the refurbishment of the Village Hall and establishing an office for the Parish council there, and then helping to recruit our excellent Clerk.

During Gordon's tenure we have installed new bus shelters in Meadow Road and Stourbridge Road and created two beautiful gardens enhancing the parish.

Another huge success has been helping to re-establish Catshill's annual bonfire and fireworks display, by providing financial support and backing working with the enthusiastic 6th Bromsgrove Scouts who are based in Catshill.

Under his guidance your council has established strong links with the Lickey End branch of the Royal British Legion, helping to maintain the war memorial and promoting the increasingly popular Remembrance Day events.

More recently he played his part in supporting the village library, which has now relocated to Catshill Middle School and renamed the Catshill Community Library.

Gordon has presided over the establishment of this periodic newsletter and has seen the parish reach its full complement of councillors.

Finally you will be pleased to know that we will not be losing Gordon's skills and knowledge, as he not only continues to be a parish councillor but he has been elected Vice-Chair. So thank you Gordon for all your hard work and dedication to our community.

## *Flooding Update*

**YOUR** Parish Council is aware there are still problems with flooding in various parts of the parish and that a multi-agency approach is being taken to prevent them in the future. Various measures are being taken now and a full update will be included in the next edition of this newsletter.



*Alan Kelly, Jayne Kings, Gill Lungley  
onsite discussion*



CATSHILL WOMENS INSTITUTE



# Fun Day

## 15th June 2013





### *The Jubilee Four Barbershop Quartet.*

**ALTHOUGH** not originally under this name, The Jubilee Four Barbershop Quartet were formed in 1976 by Peter Mobley the then choirmaster and three other members of the Catshill Methodist Church choir - Roy Wilkes, Don Hember and Jerry Beckett.

The idea to form the group came when Don received a music book from relatives in Canada containing various close harmony arrangements, which the four then started to sing.

In the following year of 1977, they decided to rename themselves The Jubilee Four, in order to help the village celebrate the Silver



*Left to Right – Don Hember, Roy Wilkes, Peter Mobley & Jerry Beckett.*

Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. However, they then continued to sing at numerous venues within the Bromsgrove area, and sometimes further afield for another 10 years. They were joined for a while by a fifth member – local music teacher Bob Porter.

During their 11 years as a group they were often raising money for charity – including a big charity event at the Gloucester Civic Hall.

Wherever they went they made a huge impression not only with their colourful costumes which included matching gold cuff links each with their logo on, but primarily by the exceptional quality of their close harmony arrangements of songs from the 1920s, 30s and 40s which they interspersed with a few sacred songs. They were quite simply a delight to listen to.

Sadly only Peter and Roy survive of the original four members, but it is good to note that after a period of ill health Peter is singing again with various choirs including the Worcester Cathedral Choir.

I hope this photograph brings back happy musical memories to all those who heard the Jubilee Four Barbershop Quartet live, and for those readers who were not lucky enough to have had this pleasure, the good news is, it has come to light that recordings exist of the group, some of which we hope to make available on our website.

*Cllr. Paul Masters.*



Lions Club Bromsgrove



**Fun Night**  
**No Experience Required**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013**  
**From 8pm**

**In aid of Teenage Cancer Trust & other  
Lions Charities**

**Lickey End Social Club**  
**17 Alcester Road, Lickey End,**  
**Bromsgrove, Worcs. B60 1JT**

**Tickets £5.00**  
**Tel: 01527 832255**



## Make a Difference.....

**Could you help support an older person returning**  
**Home from Hospital?**

After a stay in hospital many older people feel vulnerable, isolated and unable to cope with day to day life. They are often on their own, trying to adapt to changes in their lives. We are looking for caring people who can spare a few hours to support older people to regain their independence and improve their quality of life by shopping, collecting prescriptions, carrying out small household tasks and giving emotional support.

**Contact us now on:**

**0800 0086077**

Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire  
Malvern Gate, Bromwich Road, Worcester. WR2 4BN  
Email: [volunteering@ageukhw.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageukhw.org.uk), [www.ageukhw.org.uk](http://www.ageukhw.org.uk)  
Charity No: 1080545

# GOLDEN PLAICE

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## Who Are Your Parish Councillors?

**ONCE** again we are up to full strength in numbers of Parish Councillors, so now seems a good time to provide an update on names and contact details.

The Catshill & North Marlbrook parish has three wards, being: - Catshill Village, Barley Mow and North Marlbrook. Although your councillors have been elected or co-opted to specific wards, you will find that all councillors tend to be actively involved with all matters that occur within the whole parish regardless of the ward.

<i><b>Catshill Village Ward</b></i>		
Phil Baker	01527 870861	p.baker@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Glenys Blackmoor	01527 833144	g.blackmoor@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Angela Boyle	01527 879387	angelaboyle@hotmail.co.uk
Frank Cook	01527 874360	f.cook@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Julian Gray	01527 837286	j.gray@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Stephen Haynes	01527 570806	s.haynes@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Malcolm Shephard	01527 871315	m.shephard@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Gordon Witcomb - Vice Chair	01527 875707	glgordon@hotmail.com
<i><b>Barley Mow Ward</b></i>		
Paul Masters	01527 579737	p.masters@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Geoff Miller	07570 581388	g.miller@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Roy Nicklin	07776 326455	r.nicklin@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
<i><b>Marlbrook Ward</b></i>		
Alan Kelly - Chairman	0121 445 2574	a.kelly@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk
Peter Worthington	01527 879023	p.worthington@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Members of the public are always most welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings and will be given an opportunity to speak during the meeting on matters relating to the agenda.

Meetings are held monthly (with the exception of August & December), the dates and times of which are published well in advance on the first page of our website. As a rule they are held on the last Thursday of the month, starting at 7:30pm in Catshill Village Hall.

Members of the public are also welcome to the various committee meetings. The dates and times of these are posted with the agendas on our two official notice boards which are located at the Ivy Cottage Gardens in Catshill and outside Tesco Express in Marlbrook.

Our Clerk Gill Lungley is available in the office at the side of Catshill Village Hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00am till noon, and can be contacted on **07813 671899** or via [clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk)

## *Second & Final Parish Showcase?*

ON Saturday 20th April we opened up Catshill Village Hall from 10:00am till 2:00pm allowing any interested persons to wander in and see a range of stalls and displays that had been set up by some of the numerous clubs, societies, religious and social groups that meet within the parish. The idea being that these organisations would be able to meet the public and perhaps gain new members, and at the same time help ensure that everyone within the parish is aware of the amazing array of events that go on.



Whilst last years Showcase had its successes, the parish council events committee feel that this second event did not attract enough additional participants and members of the public to warrant further Showcase events until further notice.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in either or both of these events, and hope that at least through our publicising of these days that more people are aware of what is going on in our community.

Please be aware that our website has an Events page, listing many of the regular activities available to all at [www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/whatson.html](http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/whatson.html)

## **REMEMBER - REMEMBER**

**Please put this date in your diary now:**

**Saturday 2nd November**

**This is the date set for the 2013 Annual Bonfire and Fireworks display which as usual will be held on the Meadow in Catshill.**

**This popular community event, which is jointly organised by your parish council and the 6th Bromsgrove Scouts, continues to grow and we hope to see you and your friends and family on the night.**

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

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Bromsgrove, B61 0BX**



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## Catshill Community Library Update

IN the previous edition of this newsletter, the lead story was that of the Catshill Library moving from the old Wesleyan Chapel building in Barley Mow Lane to modern premises alongside the Middle School (at the rear of the car park). This move has been a great success, and the new library is a fantastic facility that we can all be proud of.

As with all such ventures its long term success will depend on its usage and with this in mind we hope that any readers who have not yet been to see the new library do visit soon. We are sure you will be impressed with the facilities that apart from the wide range of books that includes spoken word and large print, children's and young people's books chosen by Catshill pupils, dvd's, cd's and videos, also incorporate free wi-fi and access to computers, scanner and printer. There is a comfortable reading area, a drinks vending machine and toilets.

Catshill Community Library also provides a variety of social and learning opportunities such as the reading group, babies' bounce and rhyme, free health checks, computer courses and, coming soon, first-aid training. It is run by trained staff and a band of volunteers; if you would like to offer some of your time to help out then please call in to find out more. The library is open Monday and Saturday mornings and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons.



SUPPORTED BY CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Once again this year your parish council is helping with the funding of the Summer Reading Challenge being held at Catshill library. This year's theme of "Creepy House" will see youngsters being challenged to read six books, and we are delighted to support this event as head teachers and teachers have reported that children taking part in these challenges have benefited with improved literacy levels. Good luck to all who take part!

### 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)

