

NEWS MAGAZINE



AUTUMN 2018

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Don't Be Alone At Christmas

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? Or, are you this person?

Catshill Village Hall has been booked from late morning on 21st December 2018 in order to provide a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings for people who have no family, live alone or are elderly and will be unable to experience the full range of enjoyment 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 volunteers obtained; 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 or are interested in the event for yourself, please contact the Clerk to the Council via clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk or **01527 873266/07813 671899**. Alternatively, please complete the form on the rear of this newsletter and post to/put through the door of the Parish Office at **Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0JZ**.

Please contact the Clerk, even if you have previously attended the event.

Don't be alone this Christmas

Contacting the Parish Council

CATSHILL and North Marlbrook Parish Council welcome contact from Parishioners, whether this be with good news or information about areas that need our attention. We need your help; as much as we try we cannot be aware of everything happening in the Parish. There are various methods that can be used to contact the Parish Council. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk are available via email, telephone, voicemail or by visiting the office and/or leaving a note through the letter box if necessary. The Parish Council also have a Facebook account and a new website that is completely interactive. As the Clerk, I like to be able to acknowledge receipt of requests and keep people up to date on my progress with any actions. Also, there are times where the Parish Council do not have the power to assist with the request and I need to pass on further contact details. Please could we ask, no matter what the issue is that you have brought to our attention, that you leave some form of contact details to allow us to respond to your request. These will be stored confidentially and only used for communicating with you regarding the matter that you have brought to our attention, following which the details will be destroyed. Thank you

Smile Stones



MY job often involves me walking around areas of the Parish. On two occasions my day has been brightened when I have spotted these beautifully painted rocks hidden in areas of the Village. One I found near our notice board in Marlbrook and the other on the corner of the Ivy Cottage Raised planter in Catshill. This is a craze that aims to bring joy and happiness to people as they find the brightly coloured rocks. You can either enjoy looking at them and continue on your way or, as I did, photo them and re-hide them for someone else to find. There are social

media groups dedicated to these stones, that are aptly named 'Smile Stones', where people can share their discoveries before re-hiding them. Writing on the back of the stone will usually let you know what to do. So as you walk around the Parish, keep your eye out for these little gifts and enjoy joining in the fun! It's not just for children....

Rebekah Powell, Clerk





OVER the main Summer months, the Parish Council has a break from meetings to allow for the holiday period, however, this Summer, the Council seemed busier than ever! The Clerk dealt with a number of different issues brought to her attention by residents, the Neighbourhood Plan group continued to work tirelessly to analyse the results of the recent questionnaire and begin the next stage of the project plan and Councillors busied about their tasks in relation to upcoming events, monitoring of planning applications, adhering to new legislation and maintaining the environment of the Parish.

The next few months will continue to be a busy period for the Council with a Bonfire Event, Remembrance Service, Christmas Light Switch on Event and Christmas Meal for the Elderly. In addition to this flurry of activity, the Committees will be looking into their action plans for the coming year and the Council will be creating a budget in order to meet these targets. The current Council Action plan can be viewed on the Parish Council's website (www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk) and is reviewed on a regular basis. If residents have any ideas of projects or issues that they feel the Parish Council should be attending to, then please contact the Clerk who will ensure the ideas are discussed by relevant Members.

The Local Council Award Scheme is a qualification that the Parish Council can apply for in order to recognise the professionalism of the service that is offered to its residents. Your Parish Council have been working towards the Foundation Award and hope that, in the very near future, this accreditation will be achieved. Look out for the result in our next news magazine.

It may be a little early at present, but as this is the last edition of the year, I would like, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Cllr Owen Sweeting

Music Maybe?

IN the last News Magazine, we invited anyone who was interested in Community Events to contact the Parish Council. In particular following this article, we have had interest expressed about the formulation of a group to look into resurrecting a music festival in the Parish. If there is anyone else who feels they have the skills or enthusiasm to join a group to research this, then please contact the Clerk.



Councillors walk the Woodrow Lane footpath.

ONE evening at the end of July, some of the parish councillors and other interested parties met together to walk some of the local footpaths. This has now become an regular event, with the aim of familiarising councillors with the local rights of way, and monitoring the condition of the paths, in terms of walkability, signage and way marking.

We enjoyed a beautiful sunny evening with good conditions underfoot. This walk concentrated on the paths in the Lydiate Ash, Marlbrook and Woodrow lane area. Generally, we found them in good order with no obstructions and with adequate signage. Walking adjacent to some cereal crops, we noted, due to the dry summer, how sparse and small much of the grain was; which signals the prospect of a poor harvest for farmers this year!

When you look at routes of many public rights of way today, some of them seem rather random. However, at some time in the past, all of them would have had a purpose: joining small hamlets, leading to churches, providing a route to market,

coffin routes and many other uses. Although the ultimate destination of many of the paths have long since disappeared, they remain part of our local history.

Why not get out and walk some of our local paths and enjoy our beautiful countryside. It is one of the best ways to keep fit and it's free!



LtoR – Cllr P Baker, Cllr P Masters, Cllr M Shephard, Mr P Crysell, Cllr B McEldowney, Mr J Quinn



Cereal crops and a wonderful view.

WE are hosting a number of seasonal events at Catshill Village hall this Autumn and Winter.

Spooktacular October sees the return of the hugely successful Under 12's, Children's Fancy Dress Halloween Party on Friday 26th October, 5.30-7pm. Following last years sell-out event, we are planning an even bigger party with the addition of new games and of course... a spooky disco. Tickets are just £5 per child and include free refillable children's drinks, games and disco. Please contact c.wing@catshillvillagehall.co.uk or call **07762 747992** to book tickets for this event.

If your children haven't had their fill of all things spooky, you can pop back to the Village Hall on Saturday 27th October for a free event involving some Pumpkin Carving and face painting at the Seed Swap event between 11am and 2pm. This is also an opportunity to bring along

plants and seeds to swap with other green fingered gurus!



In **November** we are getting ready for the festive season with our annual Craft Fair. We have a number of stalls already booked, selling bespoke, handcrafted gifts. Please come along and take a look from 10am – 1pm, on Saturday 24th November. If you are interested in booking a table for this event, please contact, c.wing@catshillvillagehall.co.uk or on **07762747992**.

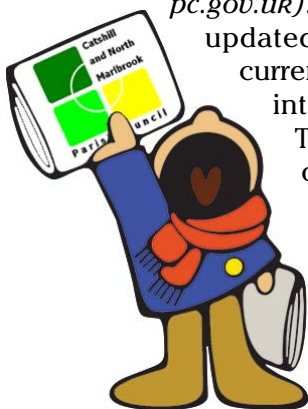
December rounds up the year with the Catshill Christmas Light Switch on, and of course the year would not be complete without our Annual Christmas Meal for the elderly on Friday 21st December. Details of both events can be found on page 6.

Claire Wing,
Catshill Village Hall Manager

Parish Council Communications

IN addition to this tri-annual News Magazine, the Parish Council aim to communicate as much as possible with residents in other ways. The Parish Website is kept up to date and includes Agendas, minutes, a blog of events and communications and other useful information (www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk). Also, the Parish Council have a Facebook Account that is updated with relevant and timely information. Finally, there are currently 3 notice boards for those in the Parish without access to

internet. These are updated regularly and situated near the Tesco Express in Marlbrook, at the Ivy Cottage Gardens and outside the Village Hall. The latter will be updated in the near future to provide more space as it is currently too small. In addition, a new notice board has been purchased for the lower area of Catshill and will be situated outside the Catshill Social Club on the grass near the pavement. This will be a low level notice board, in a lectern style and we hope will assist with keeping residents as up to date as possible with Parish Council business.



WE are entering event season in the Parish! These are the important dates you may wish to add to your calendars

Bonfire Event

The Catshill Bonfire will return to the Meadow on Saturday 3rd November 2018, with the gates opening at 6:00pm. The Bonfire will be lit at 6:30pm and the fireworks will commence at 7:15pm. The Event will be supported again by the Scouts association who will be selling hot and cold drinks, food and flashing memorabilia.

Any donations of wood for the Bonfire will be gratefully received on the day, however, please ensure these are suitable for burning at a community event and do not include treated wood, screws, plastics, nails or glass. Please also remember, personal fireworks and sparklers are not allowed at the event for safety reasons.

Remembrance Service

On Sunday 11th November the **Remembrance Service** will be held at Catshill Social Club at 10am, followed by a procession to the War Memorial where the remainder of the service will be performed. This year marks the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War so the ceremony will be commemorating this milestone. The roads immediately surrounding this vicinity will be closed to facilitate this event and those who are affected will receive a letter closer to the time.

Christmas Light Switch on

On Saturday 1st December we will be holding the second **Christmas Light Switch on** in Catshill. Join us outside the Village Hall on Golden Cross Lane and celebrate the start of the festive season with dancers, singers, musicians, refreshments, a quiz for the children and a visit from the big man himself! The Event will take place between 3pm and 6pm. A short amount of the road will be closed in order to make the area safe. Those who will be immediately affected by this closure will receive a letter nearer to the time.

Christmas Meal for the Elderly

This ever popular event returns to Catshill Village Hall on Friday 21st December 2018. A provision for the people who have no family, live alone or are elderly and will be unable to experience the full range of enjoyment this festive season. This free event will enable up to 50 people, initially from Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish, to enjoy entertainment, a three course roast dinner and a visit from the big man himself in the hopes of spreading some Christmas light and cheer to those most in need. Please see front cover for more details.



What are the Issues & Options for Bromsgrove District's Local Plan Review?

Get involved... tell us what you think!

We need your help to identify all of the planning issues facing Bromsgrove in order to develop appropriate policies to address them. The Issues and Options consultation will be open from the **24th September to 19th November 2018** and we will be seeking your views on the following:



How can I have my say?

A series of events are taking place for people to talk to planning officers and submit comments at the following locations:

Drop in sessions	10th October 2018	8.30am-8pm	Parkside Suite, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 8DA
	17th October 2018	8.30am-8pm	Parkside Suite, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 8DA
	7th November 2018	8.30am-8pm	Parkside Suite, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 8DA
Market Day	20th October 2018	10am-3pm	Bromsgrove Market
	30th October 2018	10am-3pm	Bromsgrove market

Other events will be taking place in the following locations:

Bromsgrove Leisure Centre

and at the following local libraries

Alvechurch Library • Bromsgrove Library
Catshill Library • Hagley Library
Rubery Library • Wythall Library

Further details of our consultation events can be found on our website: <http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/districtplan>
Please contact the **Strategic Planning Team** if you would like to know more on **01527 88 1663/2868**



Bromsgrove District Council

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Planning and
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and Conservation**



Mrs Violet Keight at the door of Gladstone Cottage, Woodrow Lane 1925.

THANKS go to Mrs. Ruth Howard for supplying the photo for this edition of "From Our Past." It shows her mother, Mrs. Violet Keight standing at the door of Gladstone Cottage, Woodrow Lane in 1925.

It was taken from the footpath, and clearly shows a nail shop attached to the



A recent image of Gladstone Cottage. © Google Street View.

cottage. As can be seen in the modern photo, the cottage (now known as 49 Woodrow Lane) is still standing, though it has had a porch added, the nail shop has been replaced with an extension and another extension has been added to the far end of the building. Ruth explained that there was a well the other side of the wooden fence shown in the original photo, and how the garden had a large Cherry tree in it with a swing made by her father.

The attraction of the swing and the chance to enjoy the fruit of the tree made the garden very popular with local children!

In our last edition, I asked if anyone had any information about Cunny Green pond, which was in the fields of Barnsley Farm, though it no longer exists.



We were contacted by Mr Raymond Lunnon of Montgomery Close, who remembers the pond well from the 1940s through to the 1970s, as during this time he worked firstly in the gardens of Barnsley Hall Hospital, and then for Barnsley Hall Farm itself.

Raymond was able to tell us that the pond was fed by a natural spring in the field, supplemented by rainwater that flowed off

the A38, through the field and into the pond. He also explained that when the pond overflowed, the water flowed through the fields, eventually joining the stream at the Washing Stocks.

We suspect that a combination of better drainage on the A38, and most significantly, the drying up of the spring (something that happened to several springs in the area) eventually caused the pond to disappear. Raymond even remembers how during the war, people would attempt to catch fish there, using cotton and a bent pin for a hook!

Thanks Raymond for this interesting information.

Remember if you have an old photograph of the area that you would like to share, then please let us know.

Cllr. Paul Masters.

30mph Wheelie Bin Stickers

IN the last edition of the news magazine, the Parish Council sent out 30mph wheelie bin stickers to all residents in Barley Mow Lane as a trial exercise to the effectiveness of these signs. This initiative has now been reviewed. It has been decided that distributing these to an entire road is not necessarily the best way of creating the effect needed. The Parish Council will be obtaining more 30mph speed stickers then approaching certain households on various roads to ask if they would like to use the stickers on their bins. These will be houses where it is felt the sticker will be most effective when used

However, there will be a supply of stickers available in the Office, so if you are not one of the households approached and would like a set of two stickers for your bins, please contact the Parish Clerk who will be happy to provide them to you.

New Fence & Lane Signs

IN the last edition, we highlighted the improvement to the pavement behind the Co-op, and for this edition we can report on further enhancements to our area, this time around the Parish Council maintained garden next to the Baptist Church...



Firstly the old road signs for Barley Mow Lane and Gibb Lane have been removed. They always looked a little misleading, as it appeared that both were in Gibb Lane! New road signs will of course be positioned shortly. Secondly, a new fence has been erected where the old signs were, which will help protect the garden. This will eventually run around the entire perimeter of the garden and will have gravel boards installed at its base to prevent the flow of soil from the garden into The Doc (not yet completed at the time of going to press).

We hope you agree that these measures further improve our parish.



Gravel boards will be installed here to prevent soil erosion



The new fence that will go round the garden

100 Year Commemoration of the End of WWI

YOU may be aware that this year marks a very special milestone of 100 years since the end of the First World War. In commemoration of this, the Parish Council have obtained a silhouette statue of a soldier that will be placed within the fenced area close to the War Memorial in time for the Remembrance service to be held on 11th November 2018. The statue will be a permanent feature and it is hoped it will only serve to add to the sense of nostalgia and pride that this event evokes.

Don't Be Alone At Christmas

Please complete/photocopy this form and post to/put through the door of the Parish Office at Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0JZ.

I would like to attend the Christmas Event to be held on 21st December 2018.

Name:

Telephone Number:

Address:

Do you have any allergies? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please detail:

Do you require a vegetarian meal? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you require transport to the event? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you have any further special requirements? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please detail:

The Parish Clerk will be in contact with you again prior to the event if you express an interest in attending.

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

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk



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Published by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council



Catshill Bonfire

**The Meadow
Meadow Road
Catshill**

**Saturday 3rd
November**

**Adults £3 Children £2
Under 5's FREE**

In association with



**Gates open 6.00pm Bonfire lit 6.30pm
Fireworks 7.15pm**

Any person carrying alcohol or appearing to be intoxicated will not be allowed entry.
No personal fireworks or sparklers are allowed to be brought onto site.

**Free
Parking**
at Catshill
Middle School