



# LITTER PICK



**MANY** of you will be aware that there are two litter pickers in the Parish, Alan and Jane, who are employed by Bromsgrove District Council and the Parish Council respectively. They both do a fantastic

job of keeping the area clear of litter and debris. However, there remain problem hotspots and areas that need more attention. With this in mind, following on from requests from Parishioners and in order to create a community spirit, the Parish Council organised a litter pick on Saturday 14th July. We met at the Village Hall at 11:00am and, donned in High Viz jackets, spent a couple of hours collecting bags of litter. It was lovely to receive thanks from Parishioners as they met us on our route and we were even invited into the Baptist church for tea and cake! We hope to hold another Litter Picking Event in the future, so if you are interested in joining us, please keep an eye on Social Media and the Website for more information.



**SPEED AWARENESS INITIATIVE**  
**30MPH WHEELIE BIN STICKER**  
**SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

## 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.

*Rebekah Powell, Clerk to the Council*

## A New Catshill Music Festival?

**IN** last editions “*From our Past*” article, I asked whether anyone would be interested in resurrecting the Catshill carnival; well we had an interesting suggestion from a reader. They suggested a slight variation; perhaps Catshill could reintroduce a music festival! After all, several nearby places already have successful Music festivals, so why can’t we?

The reader quite rightly suggested that to do this, we would need a team of volunteers to help us organise and plan, including choosing bands, arranging catering and ticketing etc.

If any readers are interested in helping, then we would love to hear from you. You don’t need any experience, just be enthusiastic and willing to help to make a community event in our own back yard.

Based on the experiences of nearby events, we realise that we would need a core of 10 or more main helpers, with perhaps 10 to 20 occasional helpers.

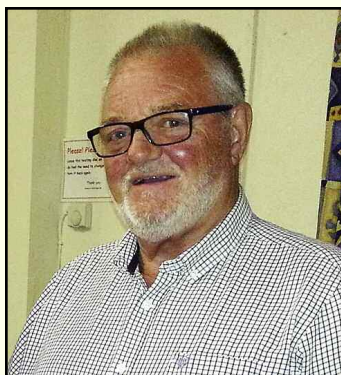
If you are interested in helping with this venture, then please contact the clerk ASAP!

*Cllr. Paul Masters*



## Chairman's Chatter

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**WELCOME** to another news magazine and many thanks for the kind remarks we have received in relation to our previous issues.

I have been receiving mixed opinions about the heat wave we are experiencing currently, some are actually still enjoying it but the vast majority are now practising the rain dance.

I must compliment Councillor Malcolm Shephard on the hard work he is putting into keeping the Ivy Cottage Garden looking fresh and remind myself to check into the use of the parks stand pipe should we experience a hose pipe ban.

You will all have received a letter from myself along with a questionnaire relating to the Neighbourhood Plan, that we would dearly like you to complete. We require a reasonable amount returning to take any bias out of the statistical analysis used to produce an end result. At the time of writing, there are still a few weeks remaining of July, so if you are able, and it is not in the bin, please take a little time to complete and return it before 31st July. Make your views count!

There have been some comments across Social Media sites relating to this questionnaire, many of them positive and supportive, which we thank you for. However, it may be worth reminding Parishioners that Parish Councillors carry out their role purely voluntarily, receiving no payment for the work they undertake. We are also committed to ensuring the precept collected from Parishioners is used thriftily for the Parish and any large amounts of expenditure relating to the Neighbourhood Plan have been obtained through grants available for that purpose.

Your Council along with the Village Hall Committee and local District and County Councillor are arranging a number of events programmed for the Autumn and Winter months. These will include a Bonfire Night, Halloween Party, Armistice ceremony at our cenotaph with a service and refreshments at the Catshill Community Club, a turning on of the Christmas lights ceremony with street dancing and a choir and, of course, the ever popular Christmas Party for our Senior citizens. We are also looking at re-establishing the Music festival as well as running a re-enactment day to commemorate the ending of the First World war 100 years ago, and a lot of other ideas are being discussed.

The main problem that is brought to my attention is the speed of the vehicles using our village as a route onto or from the motorways. This is one that I am in total agreement with and can assure you we are doing everything we are able to mitigate it. Living on Golden Cross Lane and with windows open at night the noise of very fast traffic seems to go on continuously throughout the night. The flashing 30mph sign opposite the Methodist Church is totally ignored; you do not often see a brake light go on. This is repeated on the main arteries throughout the village. It is outside of the direct control of your Parish Council but we are lobbying on your behalf and working with the District and County Council, Safer Roads Partnership and Safer Neighbourhood Team.

*Cllr O Sweeting*



## *Speed Awareness Initiative*

### ***SPEED.***

This is one of the main issues that is often communicated with the Parish Council and is also, unfortunately, something we have little power to deal with. However, the Parish Council have decided to begin working on a speed awareness initiative. This will hopefully include:

- **Training for and the introduction of a Community Speed Watch programme**
- **Application for a 20mph speed limit along Meadow Road and up to the Co-op area on Gibb Lane**
- **Trial of 30mph wheelie bin stickers on Barley Mow Lane initially**
- **The purchase of a mobile Vehicle Activated Speed sign for use around the Parish**
- **Identification of areas where more signage, repeater signs or road markings are needed**

These things will take time to organise and co-ordinate and we will be working closely with Worcester County Council, Bromsgrove District Council, Highways Department and the Safer Neighbourhood Team in order to progress this initiative.

### ***30mph Wheely Bin Sticker Signs***



The Parish Council are aware that speeding is an issue throughout the whole Parish. Recently speed monitoring has been carried out by the Safer Roads Partnership and the police on certain roads which is set to continue. There are certain roads that we receive the most contact about and Barley Mow Lane is one of these. We have therefore decided to trial Wheely Bin Speed Stickers on this road. If this is deemed successful, more roads may also have stickers distributed to them.

Those of you who live on Barley Mow Lane will have received two wheely bin stickers in this magazine, one for each of your bins. Please attach it to the side of your wheely bin that faces towards the top of Barley Mow Lane (towards A38) when it is out on the pavement. This should create the effect of a temporary repeater sign for traffic coming down the road on bin collection days. Please

continue to collect your bins as soon as possible after emptying to prevent undue obstacles on the pavements.

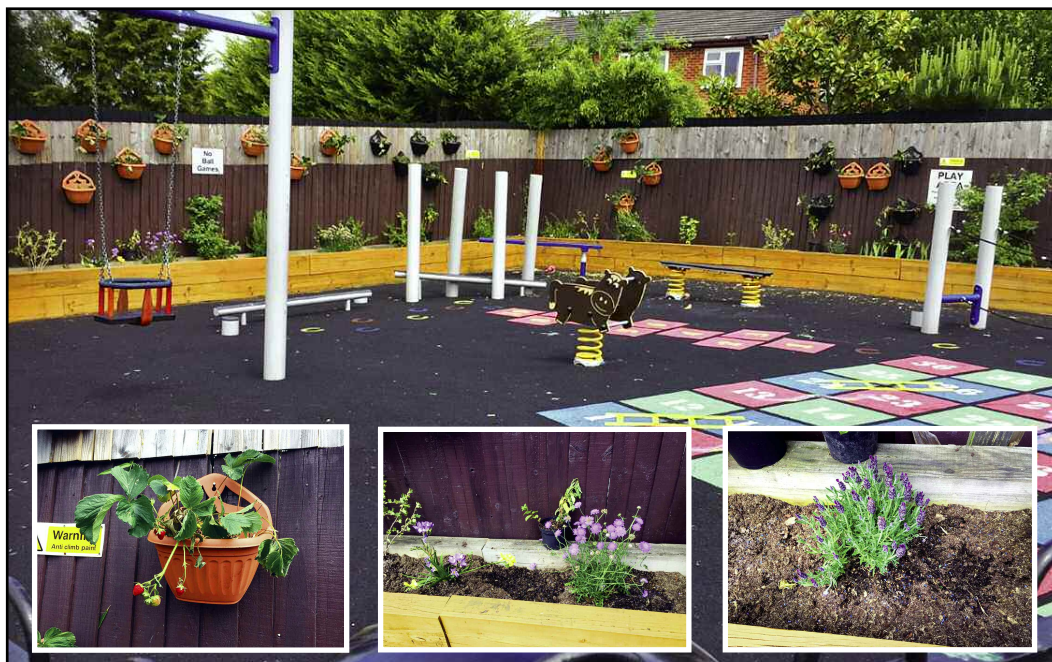
*Thank you*

## Goodwood Road Park

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**WHEN** walking around the village, I noticed how beautiful the park at Goodwood Road is looking. Some anonymous person/group of people have created planters and added flowers to the area and strawberries hanging from the fences. It is fabulous, but to date I am unable to establish who is responsible for it. Whoever it is, thank you!

*Rebekah Powell, Clerk to the Council*



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email: [info@phoenixflooringandbedrooms.co.uk](mailto:info@phoenixflooringandbedrooms.co.uk)

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## 6 Catshill Methodist Church 50th Anniversary Events

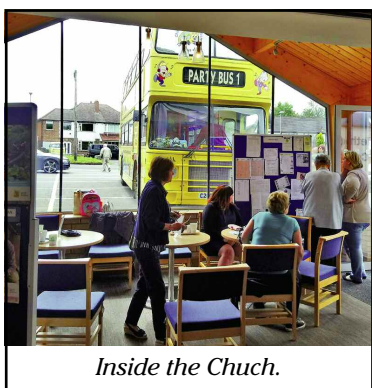


*Catshill Methodist Church Choir perform in Oak Tree House in Marlbrook on Sat 12th May.*

AS mentioned in our last edition, Catshill Methodist Church are celebrating 50 years since the opening of their current building with a year of activities



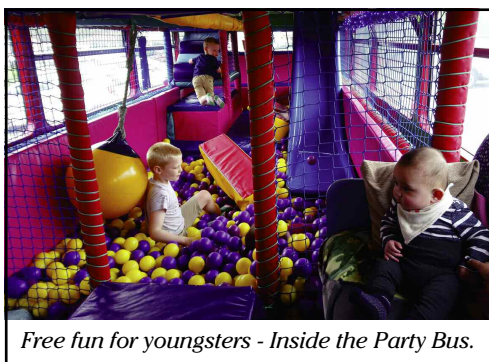
*Catshill Only Men Allowed men's choir perform.*



*Inside the Church.*

including festivals, displays and three visits to the car park of the church by Bertha the Party Bus, which allowed free access to youngsters aged 3-8 years old from the village to enjoy fun and games aboard! Part of the concept of these celebrations is to try and encourage more interaction with the local community, and one such event, on May 12th, saw both the Church Choir and the more recently formed Catshill Only Men Allowed men's choir performing in the garden of choir member Dave Morgan and his wife, Di, as part of their opening for the National Garden Scheme. The event was a great success with

over £500 being raised on the night for charities supported by the NGS which includes MacMillan's, Marie Curie and Parkinson's.



*Free fun for youngsters - Inside the Party Bus.*



*The Party Bus Arrives on Sat 16th May on the Church car park.*

## From Our Past

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IN this edition of our News Magazine I am delighted to bring you an old photograph of Cunny Green Pond. It was supplied courtesy of Grenville Giles of The Dock, Catshill, who tells me that the title of the photograph is '*Mrs. Price at Cunny Green.*'

I am informed that this photograph dates back to the 1950s, though it may be earlier.

My own mother, Mrs. Hazel Masters remembers this pond from the 1930s when she was a young girl. She has memories of villagers "skating" on it when it froze during the winter.

Cunny Green Pond was in Barnsley Hall fields (behind the cemetery), and almost certainly got its name from "Coney" which is pronounced cunny, and is an old word for rabbit. The pond no longer exists, and I am not sure whether it dried up naturally, or was intentionally drained. If you know more then please let us know!

As ever, if you have an old photograph of interest that you would like to share, then please send it to us.

Don't forget that you can view other "From our Past" old photographs published in previous editions of our news magazines by visiting our website [www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr. Paul Masters.



## Catshill Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to be a useful focal point for the community. We are making improvements and constantly keeping the Hall in good repair. Internally, each of the strip lights is being replaced with LED lights, both toilets have been

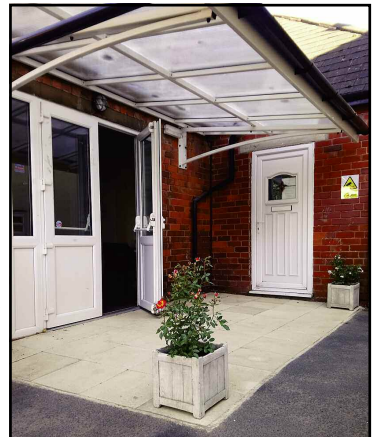


*Clearance of the trees has improved the aspect of the hall.*

renovated and improved, the flooring in the main hall has been re-enforced to prevent lifting and CCTV has been fitted both internally and externally. More recently, externally, we have laid a patio under the canopy and have been provided with rose bushes in pots by Meadows School to make the entrance more welcoming. The weeds, foliage and trees around the hall have been a huge project. The vegetation was damaging the walls, roof and guttering of the Hall and inhibiting the use of the car park. This is being

tackled in stages – the trees have been removed from the rear of the hall leaving a brighter aspect through the window of the Hall whilst preventing the damage they were causing; the foliage and vegetation has been stripped from the perimeter of the Hall and a cycle of weed killer and strimming is being used to reduce the weed growth in the car park and at the front of the Hall. We will keep you updated with the progress.

There are numerous activities to suit all age groups and interests held onsite - please look at our brand new website (<http://catshillvillagehall.co.uk/>). We have a few spare slots for weekly activities and of course we are well used for events which cover a wide variety of parties, meetings etc. Upcoming events for the Autumn include a Table Top Sale with some rather classy items and in October there will be a Children's Halloween Party again, following



*A more welcoming area – the entrance to the hall with new patio, improved guttering and flower boxes.*



*Improved natural light in the hall following the tree removal.*

on from the tremendous success of last year's event. Please support our Fund raising events where you can, as the Village Hall is a Charitable Institution; we receive very little Public money or Grants. Remember it is your Village Hall. We try to be competitively priced, helpful and flexible and are open to all reasonable suggestions and ideas for future use.

*Village Hall Management Committee*



## Summer Gardens Competition

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**THREE** Parish Councillors had the pleasure of driving around the Parish and viewing some of the amazing displays of colour in the wonderful front gardens of various styles and sizes. They also had the rather difficult job of judging these and pronouncing three winners! The results were based not only on the look of the garden, but also the amount of work and thought that had gone into the planning and planting. The winners are:



**Bronze: 79a, Barley Mow Lane**

**Silver: 4, Green Lane, Catshill**

**Gold: 15, Cottage Lane, Marlbrook**

**Well done to each of you. Look out for your prize through the letter box soon!**

Also, thank you to all those who took the time to contact us in order to specifically take part, and to all of you who take so much pride in your gardens which in turn creates a very welcoming Parish environment.

### Catshill Baptist Foodbank

serving Catshill and surrounding areas

Open  
Wednesdays 10am - noon

Gibb Lane (leading to Golden Cross Lane)

Did you know that our re-launched foodbank is now operating weekly from the new church building?

Local schools, GPs and other professional support workers can issue vouchers, but in an emergency please get in touch or call in.

Barley Mow Lane

Milton Road




Catshill Baptist Church

phone: 07542 102649

## *Dance With Chloe May's Dance Academy*

**DID** you know that your child can take Ballet, Tap, Modern Jazz and Acro classes in Catshill? Chloe May's Dance Academy provides high quality dance tuition and enthusiastically rewards pupils' progress. Small class sizes enable the Academy to offer personalised tuition in a nurturing, safe and fun environment.

The Academy's youngest pupils (ages 2-5) learn Ballet, Tap and Modern Jazz with the engaging and award-winning Melody Bear syllabi. Stickers and medals are collected to showcase pupils' efforts. Once pupils reach Year 1, they move up into



exam classes which prepare and enter them for dance exams. Acro pupils, who can also take exams, learn gymnastics skills and dance movements with the Acrobatic Arts syllabus.

Chloe May says that watching children of all ages enjoy learning to dance and grow in confidence is such a joy. She said: 'Dance is a skill for life. It's an exciting and valuable pursuit for both children

and adults. Coordination, self-expression, self-esteem, discipline, social skills, performance abilities, improved fitness and wellbeing...the benefits are endless.'

Chloe May began dancing at the age of 4 and became a professional dancer at 21. She toured the world in shows for several years and worked with artists such as Rachel Stevens and S Club 7. She went on to become a fully-qualified dance teacher and started teaching in schools. With a desire to combine her two passions, Chloe May's Dance Academy was born in January 2018.

Chloe is committed to ensuring that correct dance technique is taught at the Academy and wants every child to benefit from their dance lessons. The Academy's very first Christmas show is in the pipeline, so watch this space!

Classes are also available in Kidderminster at St. Catherine's Primary School.

To book your free trial with the Academy, contact:

[info@chloemaysdanceacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@chloemaysdanceacademy.co.uk), telephone **07818020865** or send the Academy a message via **Facebook**.

## *Do You Enjoy Community Events?*

**ON** 13th June the Parish Council held the first meeting of their Events Steering Group. This group will be instrumental in organising and co-ordinating the Events in the Parish, including the Bonfire Event, Remembrance Service, Christmas Lights Switch on, Christmas Meal for the elderly and a possible music event in the future. Working Groups have been formed to organise each of these events and the Parish Council would be extremely grateful for any volunteers who have a particular interest in any or all of these events and could spare some time to provide any assistance possible. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to help us bring some fun to the Parish!

## Pavement Improvement

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**WALKERS** will be delighted with recent improvements made to the narrow pavement next to Ivy Gardens, behind the Co-op convenience store. Worcestershire County Council has now made the footpath slightly wider making it safer, and in so doing, has improved the appearance of this area.



**LEARN TO**  
**DANCE**  
Dream ★ Believe  
@ Catshill Social Club



**FREE  
TRIAL  
CLASS**

### Wednesdays

4.15 - 4.45pm Reception Ballet  
4.45-5.15pm Reception Tap/Modern Jazz  
5.30-6pm Melody Movers 2 (age 3-4)

**BOOK NOW!**

**Tel: 07818020865**

**Email: [info@chloemaysdanceacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@chloemaysdanceacademy.co.uk)**

**Web: [www.chloemaysdanceacademy.co.uk](http://www.chloemaysdanceacademy.co.uk)**

### Thursdays

10-10.30am: Melody Movers 1 (age 2-3)  
10.35-10.50am: Tip Tap Toe (age 2-3)  
1.15-1.45pm: Melody Movers 1 (age 2-3)  
1.50-2.05pm: Tip Tap Toe (ages 2.5-4)  
2.10-2.40pm: Melody Movers 2 (ages 3-4)  
4-4.30pm: Year 1 Ballet  
4.30-5pm: Year 1 Tap/Modern Jazz  
5.00-5.40pm: Beginner Acro (ages 5+)  
5.50-6.20pm: Year 2+ Tap/Modern  
6.20-6.50pm: Year 2+ Ballet

**Small class sizes | Nurturing environment | Shows & exams | Qualified staff (IDTA, ISTD, Acrobatic Arts, BA Hons Dance, QTS Dance) | First Aid trained & DBS checked | Classes also in Kidderminster**



## *Your Views are Really Important MAKE THEM COUNT!*

**THE** Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continues to work tirelessly to progress this project. Much time and effort was taken in designing and producing the questionnaires that were distributed via Royal Mail to each household in Catshill and North Marlbrook. This was funded by a grant provided by Groundwork Ltd, specifically designed to assist groups with the completion of Neighbourhood Plans. This phase 2 questionnaire was directly influenced by the previous responses received during consultations carried out with businesses and residents during 2017. At the time of writing this article in excess of 300 responses have been received and the team are now working hard to input these replies so that the next phase of the project can be implemented. This will involve creating a draft report which will be consulted on later in the year, and will feed into the final Neighbourhood Plan document. Thank you for your continued support in creating a document that is important in safeguarding our semi-rural community. If you have not returned your questionnaire yet, please remember, every view counts. Make yours one of them!



### *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*

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Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council,  
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane,

Catshill, BROMSGROVE. B61 0JZ.

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

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