

NEWS MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2019

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

More Details On Page 3



New Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Bernard McEldowney, opened the Summer Street Theatre on The Meadow.

Introducing Our New Parish Council Clerk



Hi, my name is Carol Blake and I have recently taken over the role of Parish Clerk for Catshill and North Marlbrook. For many years I worked as a Senior Finance Officer for Birmingham City Council but in 2018 decided to take Voluntary Redundancy from the Council and after a short break moved on to work for a year at St Modwen's, the property developer based in Longbridge.

When I left there, I wanted my next job to be more rewarding and interesting as well as fitting in with family commitments and I felt this job fitted perfectly. It sounds as though it will be varied and fun as well as being challenging and one that I am very much looking forward to getting involved in.

Needless to say, at the moment I am on a very steep learning curve but feel that I have a good support network around me which will be invaluable to me as I progress.

As I live and now work in the Parish, I am passionate about what is happening within the area and what affect it is having on the community and if there is anything that can be done to make things better for all of us.

I am based in the Parish Office on a Monday morning from 9:45am – 11:45am and you will probably see me adding Agendas and notes to the various notice boards dotted around the area so please stop me and introduce yourself.

I am really looking forward to working with you all in the future and becoming involved in making a difference to the Parish.

Goodbye And Thank You

AT the Full Parish Council meeting in June, Becky, the Parish Clerk, was thanked for four years of 'excellent' service to the Council by Members. Owen Sweeting, the previous Chair to the Council was invited back to present Becky with gifts and a card to mark the end of her role with Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council, as she embarked on a new journey in her career. Becky said 'I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Council and am proud of the achievements and progress we have made for the Parish over the last four years. The Council has moved on significantly, and so too have I in my knowledge and experience. I am truly grateful for the opportunities and support I have been given and overwhelmed by the generous thanks and gifts. I hope the new Clerk, Carol, loves the role as much as I have.'



ELECTIONS for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council took place on the 2nd May 2019. A few of our councillors decided to stand down from the Parish Council, including the former chair of the Council, Owen Sweeting. At the first meeting of the new Parish Council I was elected as the new chair.

I would like to thank Owen for his excellent chairmanship of the Council. He was always held in very high regard by his colleagues and will be a very hard act to follow.



Handover of Chair

I would also like to thank Malcolm Shepherd who stood down from the council, having served as a parish councillor for approximately 20 years. I wish Malcolm a very well deserved retirement.

Former parish councillors Collette Stark and Val Harman have also stood down from the council. Again thank you for your service to the council.

We have recently co-opted three new councillors onto the Parish Council. Welcome to Mark Saunders, Mike Johnson and Jackie Alderson. We look forward to working with you all.

Sadly, our Parish Clerk Becky Powell, recently informed us of her resignation from the Council. We are really sorry to lose Becky, as she has been a fantastic and hard working clerk. We wish Becky well in her new employment and thank her for her service to the council.

I am pleased to report that we have now recruited a new clerk, Carol Blake. Carol lives in the Catshill area. We look forward to a long and productive working relationship with Carol.

Hopefully you will have noticed the new '*Welcome to Catshill*' signs that we recently installed on main roads leading into Catshill. I must admit the flowers attached to the signs look amazing.

You may have noticed new planter boxes and hanging baskets, containing a wonderful range of flowers, at various locations within the Parish Area. Local District and Country councillor Shirley Webb, working in conjunction with the Parish Council, local scouts and Chadgrove School, under the auspices of the '*Catshill in Bloom*' scheme, has coordinated this work. Thanks to Shirley and everyone else involved in this excellent project.

I hope you are all having a pleasant summer. Enjoy the magazine.

Councillor Bernard McEldowney

WE hope that you are enjoying the beautiful displays of flowers that are brightening up our new Welcome signs and the Ivy Cottage Garden in the centre of the village. Despite the dry weather, they continue to bloom and welcome people to our Parish. Look out for winter displays during the colder months with bulbs peeping through as spring begins to creep in.



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open every
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of the month
10am - noon



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email: info@catshillbaptist.org.uk



Catshill Baptist



@catshillbaptist

FREE but donations gratefully received

we look forward to seeing you there

HAVE you noticed the newly planted tubs around the village from the A38 to Meadow Road - all part of the Catshill in Bloom project, which was started by Councillor Webb?

Students from Chadsgrove School and the 6th Bromsgrove Scouts were involved in planting them.

Singletons Garden Centre made the planters and the Scouts negotiated a deal for plants from Willowbrook Garden Centre for the ones they planted. Chadsgrove students provided their own plants.

The hanging baskets, which you will have seen around the village were part of the project and funded by Worcestershire County Council via Councillor Webb.

There are still some smaller projects to be started by the scouts and students of Chadsgrove with the help of Bromsgrove Round Table and the Forty-One club.

We must applaud the young people of Catshill for becoming so enthusiastically involved and adding a splash of colour to our village.

Some residents are helping to water the planters. if you wish to become involved and willing to water one near you, please contact the Parish Clerk.



The team with the newly planted bed outside Spar.



One of the many plant tubs decorating the area.



Some of the hanging baskets in the the village.



CATSHILL Village Hall is being well used by the Villagers, our web site lists the numerous and varied activities that take place.

When I write notes on the subject of our Hall, I always find the need to remind everyone that the hall is run as a charity with a board of trustees and a management team, all of whom are volunteers. We are always looking for new blood, so if you feel inclined to help then please get in touch, as you will be more than welcome.



The Hall is self funding, getting no financial help from our District or County Councils, however we are delighted with a Grant provided by our Parish Council of £2500 for a deep clean and the complete redecoration of our Hall, which will take place over the quiet month of August. This is very necessary, not only for the ambience, but also for the health and safety ratings required to enable the users to serve food etc.

One big project we are hoping to carry out before the winter is the tarmacking of the Car parking area around the hall and we are currently actively researching potential grants to this end.

The Hall has a Manager who can be contacted via the information on our website, Claire, who will pick up your requests and aid you in booking our facilities.

Whatever you are looking for we have tried to provide it: from looking after youngsters, to providing company in your later years, including some diet advice, dance training, and general play.

The W.I meet in the Hall once a Month and also your Parish Council use the Hall for its monthly meetings. They also have an office at the Hall that is occupied at times during the week, the Parish Council information can be found on their excellent website.

The Village Hall Trustees are also facilitating the Catshill in Bloom Project, a Project that everyone involved feels will enlist enthusiasm as it gains momentum.

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions please get in touch.

Owen Sweeting

IN previous editions of “*From our Past*” I have alluded to the number of shops that there once were in the Parish, especially within Catshill Village. Many were small family businesses run from rooms of what are now just residential properties, or from brick and sometimes wooden buildings that no longer exist.

In this edition I turn my attention to what was formerly 17, and is now known as 23 Church Road.

Many of you will remember that for many years this property was a “corner shop”, positioned at the junction of Church Road and Wildmoor Lane.



Formerly 17, now 23 Church Road today



Jesse Wilkes & his wife Peggy

Pictured is the property as it is today, along with two photographs of when it was known as Wilkes Corner Store (1975 – 1986), with one showing owner Jesse Wilkes and his wife Peggy.

For many years, prior to moving into this property in 1975, Jesse ran a small shop from a wooden shack just a few yards away, which was located down a short driveway off Wildmoor Lane.

Although of course, there were previous owners of 17 (now 23) Church Road, I am led to believe that it first became a shop in

1928 when it was owned by Shirley Woods. Subsequent owners have been Bert Laugher (1947), William Chick (1950), John Arthur Edwards (1951), Philip Bettington (1971), Thomas Frederick Waldron (1973), Jesse Wilkes (1975) and Raymond Jubb (1986). The property ceased to be a shop in 1990, becoming purely residential.

Our thanks go to current owners Ian and Angela Jones who have lived in the house since 2000 for providing the old photographs of the shop, which were given to them by Jesse Wilkes.

Finally, please do let me know if you have an interesting old photograph that you would like to share in a future edition of the news magazine.



Wilkes Corner Store (1975–1986)

Dog Poo Bags



The dog poo bag dispenser on Golden Cross Lane.



6th Bromsgrove Scouts Mucky Pup Campaign.

HAVE you noticed all the extra dog poo bag dispensers that have appeared around the village? They are made from old plastic bottles, that have been attached to a number of lampposts.

Thanks must go to the 6th Bromsgrove Scouts (based in Catshill) for all their hard work in making, fixing and keeping these dispensers refilled with bags. Your work is appreciated!

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Coming Soon

WATCH out online through Facebook and Twitter for details of how to register.

There is a meeting planned for September 5th at 6.30pm in the Village Hall to help people to register and to explain the scheme in more detail.

If you would like more information of this upcoming meeting and the scheme, please contact Councillor Webb on **07818 516682** or s.webb@bromsgrove.gov.uk



BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY
on the Meadow Saturday 2nd November 2019



Part of the Marlbrook Gardens.

TWO gardens owned by brothers John and David Morgan, with their respective wives, Janet and Di, opened their Marlbrook gardens for charity on Sunday July 21st, welcoming over 160 visitors and raising £1,500 for various charities.

The couples have been opening their gardens for 15 years under the National Garden Scheme, along with fellow gardeners Alan and Lynn Nokes in Braces Lane, and have raised over £70,000 in that time to support healthcare based

charities such as MacMillan's, Marie Curie, Parkinson's etc through the scheme. This year the takings from the sales of refreshments, a total of £335.50 was given to Bromsgrove's Basement Project, which supports local young people with homelessness or issues relating to difficulties at home. The remaining monies raised went to the National Garden Scheme charities.

One of the gardens, Oak Tree House on the Birmingham Road, also opens for private visits from groups of 10 or more people and this year has hosted visits from U3A (University of the Third Age) groups from the Wyre Forest and Alcester. In August the garden also hosted a visit from a Carer's Group that meets at the Catshill Methodist Church Centre once a month (for more details of the group contact Sheila on **0121-445-2813**).

For more information about the gardens or the National Garden Scheme contact David Morgan (the County Organiser for the scheme) at meandi@btinternet.com

Summer Garden Competition



ONCE again the Parish Council will be holding our Annual Summer Garden Competition. Judges will be circulating the village at the end of August to view the beautiful displays in your front gardens. If you don't have a garden, you can still join in the fun as judges will also be looking at any baskets, tubs and pots that are brightening the front of your home. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, with judges considering the time and effort that has gone into design and upkeep, in addition to the blooms themselves. If you would particularly like to meet the judges and invite them to view your displays, please contact the Clerk on the details at the back of this news magazine. *Good Luck!*



Pictures of old Catshill.

was also a request for any memorabilia that would be of interest.

There was a wide variety of entries including a display of artefacts and pictures from the now closed Catshill Ranger group, a clock representing times past and the nail making industry of the area, using nails as the 5 minute dividers, 24 individually modelled hearts entitled “We love reading” created by pupils at Catshill First School and Nursery representing the books used in their school reading activities, a dazzling

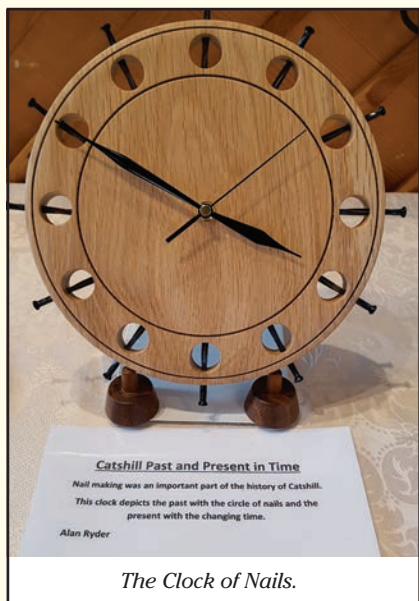


Cats-hill.

mobile created by Chadsgrove pupils, a miniature well dressing sample, photographs showing Catshill in the past and the present and even a floral arrangement of a cat on top of a hill, representing Cats-hill!

IN June Catshill Methodist Church Centre hosted an exhibition entitled “*Proud of Catshill*” at which many aspects of the village and village life were shown.

The concept was to encourage residents, ex residents and anyone with links to Catshill, plus schools, local organisations and groups to create pieces of art, which could be paintings, drawings, photographs, models or even sculptures, that represent life in the village in the past, the present or even what it might be like in the future. There



The Clock of Nails.

It was clear from the responses of those attending the exhibition that it was very well received and many people learnt more about the village they lived in. They even learnt that there was another Catshill, near Brownhills, which had a canal junction named after it!



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Day centres etc.? If you live in
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We welcome volunteers to join us to help support with this service. If you can spare a few hours, please call the number below. All expenses are paid, and training is provided.

**To register please
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01527 759 650**

Please allow 3 days before your journey

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All change at the Methodist Church!

BENJAMIN Franklin once wrote “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” But there is something else certain in life –change – there will always be changes.

And there are changes happening this summer in the Methodist Church in Golden Cross Lane. Rev Anne Smith, who has been the minister at the church for 5 years, is retiring, or as the Methodist Church so quaintly puts it, she is “sitting down”, so a new minister will be starting in September.



Rev Anne Smith who is retiring in September.

However Anne will still be around because she and husband Jim have felt so much at home in Catshill that they have decided to buy their retirement home in the village so that they can still be active members of the church and community. So it's not “goodbye” to Anne, but a case of “thank you for your pastoral care and enjoy your retirement”.

But in September it is a “Hello and welcome” to

the new minister, Rev Latika Singh, who will be moving into the Manse in Golden Cross Lane with her husband, Ajay, who is also a Methodist minister in Birmingham. No doubt we will all get to know Latika better over the coming weeks and months.

More details can be found on the church website www.catshillmethodists.org.uk.

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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