

Delivered to 3000 Households

Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

Newsletter Summer 2011

Recruitment Special!

Can you make a difference?

WITH almost 5,400 electors in this parish you would have thought we would be able to find enough people willing to volunteer for the 13 seats on the parish council! Even though the seats were advertised for the council elections in May we currently have only 9 members, which means we are looking for another 4 volunteers. Could it be you?

As the time for elections has passed anyone who is interested in making a difference to our community by becoming a parish councillor can apply directly to the council for co-option. Forms can be obtained from our Clerk to the Council, the council's administrator.

The parish council is a democratic, grass-roots based, publicly funded body. The members of the parish council represent the community, help to deliver services to meet local needs and strive to improve the community's quality of life. We look at issues relating to our local environment such as neighbourhood planning, community events, bus shelters, street lighting, highways matters, traffic concerns – in fact most of the range of topics that affect all those of us living in Catshill and North Marlbrook.



The Ivy Gardens.

Need more Information?

There is a lot of information online for anyone who wants to find out more about the parish council; we have our own website and there are parish pages on both the Worcestershire county council's and the Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils websites. The remit of parish councils is quite wide ranging so it may be easier to say what we don't do! We are not politically motivated – we leave that up to the district and county councils – and we are not part of any church or religious organisation.

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

A Message from the Chair

WE start the new electoral period of the Parish Council with a shortfall in the number of councillors. As the front page of this edition says; we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in serving their community by becoming a Parish Councillor.



maintain the garden. You can read more about this new garden in this edition, but best of all why not make a visit.

The garden next to the Ivy Cottage has once again been planted out to enhance the area and brighten up the surroundings. Sadly some of the plants have gone missing! If anyone

You may have noticed the completion of the new garden at the corner of Birmingham Road and Braces Lane. We would like to thank the Marlbrook Gardens Group (who regularly open their three gardens to the public in the summer months) and garden designer Anne Guy for their expertise. The planting was carried out by our contracted gardener P.R. Grounds Maintenance, who will also

has information on this then please contact the council or the local community police officer.

Finally, we are concerned about the rumours of County Council cuts to the library service which could mean the closure of Catshill library, so we would ask you all to support your local library in whatever way you can.

I hope you enjoy the summer!

Councillor Gordon Witcomb

Recruitment Special!

Continued from page one.

We meet on the last Thursday of each month (except for August and December) and between those meetings we have committees that meet to discuss issues regarding planning matters, the environment, events and finance.

Come and take a look!

All our meetings are open to the public and are advertised on our notice boards at the Ivy Gardens in Catshill and at the Old Birmingham Road/Braces Lane crossroads in Marlbrook.



The Stourbridge Road bus shelter, financed by The Parish Council.

We welcome input from anyone with a relevant issue they would like sorted out, but better still why not consider putting yourself forward to serve as a parish councillor?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Dance-Dance-Dance

IN each newsletter we like to tell you a bit about one of the many things you can see and do in the parish.

In this edition we turn our attention to the Catshill Dance Centre which is almost hidden away, behind the Premier Supermarket, next to the First School in Gibb Lane.

This year Catshill Dance Centre is celebrating 40 years of success. It was opened by owners Don and Carol Hopper in 1971, and has been running ever since. Don has over 50 years experience in dance,

firstly as a Ballroom Competitor and then a Dance Teacher, and he is also a Full Examiner in the I.D.T.A. (International Dance Teachers Association).

The Dance Centre is run by Diane Edwards, who is also a Full I.D.T.A. Examiner in all branches of dance. Interestingly, Diane is one of the many successful students of the centre, as she was originally trained by Don.

The centre is fully equipped and offers regular lessons in a wide variety of styles for all ages and abilities in: **Ballroom, Latin, Salsa, Old Time & Modern Sequence, Freestyle & Streetdance, Rock & Roll, Belly Dancing, Argentine Tango and Musical Theatre.**

So in an era when dance seems to be more popular than ever, it's nice to know that everyone in the parish is just walking distance from a highly professional facility where they can learn to dance for fun, to keep fit, to take I.D.T.A. medals, or even to become an instructor themselves!

If you want to find out more about learning to dance in a relaxed, friendly environment, then you can find out more by calling 01527 873638 or 07850 885426. You can also visit www.catshilldancecentre.co.uk or email info@catshilldancecentre.co.uk

If you would like us to highlight your organisation in a future edition, then just contact the Clerk.




Crown Inn
pub and dining

244 Stourbridge Road, Catshill

01527 878 030

Large beer garden
with kids play area

Free Wi Fi

Live Sports



THE SIGN OF A GREAT PINT
INDEPENDENTLY INSPECTED

Two 4 One
NEW MENU

Two Meals For The Price Of One
All Day, Everyday - NOW AVAILABLE

Sunday Night Quiz

Big Cash Prizes

Fun Starts At Eight

COME BACK TO YOUR LOCAL

Saving Lives in Our Area

NATIONAL Health Service Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) are about to start sessions in our neighbourhood. They will be held in Lickey Parish Hall on Old Birmingham Road. The first visit will take place on Monday 24th October between 1:30pm – 3:30pm, and then 4:30pm – 7:30pm.



Rebecca Guest, Area Donor Services Manager is “asking local residents to please help support your brand new local session where we are looking to collect 90 units of blood.”

Each unit of blood can potentially Save or Improve the lives of up to three patients, so local residents could be making the difference to 270 lives in just one day.

Almost 4,000 units of blood are used in hospitals in the West Midlands every week to treat people suffering from leukaemia, cancer, sickle cell anaemia or thalassaemia; people who suffer trauma through accidents or problems in childbirth or those who are undergoing general surgery.

Anyone aged over 17, weighing more than 7 stone 12 lbs and in general good health could potentially start saving lives by becoming a blood donor.

To make an appointment for the local sessions, please call **0300 123 23 23** or visit www.blood.co.uk

Fun Day Success

THE annual Catshill Fun Day was held on Saturday 18th June on the Meadow, and once again the Parish council were in attendance. Amongst the attractions and stalls the council had a gazebo containing a display of photographs and information as part of the recruitment campaign for more councillors that is ongoing. Visitors were able to see the display and have a chat over a free cup of tea or coffee. The day is always a fantastic community event with a variety of things to see and do right in the heart of the village. Thanks must go to the hard-working NWWA volunteers who manage the Meadow and organise this event. If you've never attended the Fun Day, then don't miss it next year.

Proposal To Develop Land Off Church Road, Catshill

CALA Homes have submitted an outline planning application to Bromsgrove District Council to build approximately 80 residential units on the land known as Catshill Marshes. This can be viewed online at <http://appview.bromsgrove.gov.uk>, application number 11/0343. At the time of going to press the planners are waiting for more information from Cala Homes relating to the site's ecology and flooding risk and so no decision has been made yet. The site was highlighted for possible development in the District Local Plan of 2003 and is included as such in the more recent draft District Core Strategy which can also be viewed online.

A Blooming Success – A Garden for North Marlbrook

AS mentioned in previous editions, the parish council decided that the North Marlbrook ward should have a garden area for all to enjoy, just like the Catshill ward has the “Ivy Gardens.”

Much effort went into finding a location; and eventually the grass as on the corner of the A38 and Braces Lane was chosen.

Next we had to find a design that would be both attractive and practical for this area, so we decided to involve the local community by meeting with the keen gardeners who open their three gardens to the public each summer that are known collectively as “Marlbrook Gardens.” Their help and advice was invaluable, and through them we were able to get an amazing design done by professional garden designer Anne Guy.



Volunteers mark out the garden.

Anne used her skill and knowledge to come up with a teardrop shaped garden that fits the area beautifully, and then chose a tree and other plants that would be colourful yet fairly easy to maintain.

Next, letters were sent to nearby residents informing them of what was happening, and then one Saturday morning a few parish councillors plus some of the

“Marlbrook gardeners” marked the teardrop shape out, and awaited P.R. Grounds Maintenance (our contracted gardeners) to cut the shape out, remove the turf, add top soil and do all of the planting.



The New Garden in Braces Lane.

Finally, after months of planning, weeks of preparation and hours of digging, the Marlbrook ward has a superb parish council maintained garden that everyone can enjoy. We hope that once you take a look at the garden, you will agree that everyone involved with this project did a magnificent job.

Next on the agenda... something for the Barley Mow ward!

Catshill Dance Centre

*Rear of Premier Supermarket
Gibb Lane, Catshill.*

Tel: 07850 885426

*Classes/Private Tuition
for Children and Adults
in all styles of dance*

Regular Examinations.

All ages from 3 yrs. to 85 yrs +

Music Festival Hits the Right Notes

THE new style Catshill Music Festival finally got off the ground recently with two well supported events. The first was an evening of musical entertainment organised by the M&C club, where multi keyboard player Ray Mason entertained a packed village hall on Monday 27th June.



The second was the Party in the Park, which was held on the Meadow on Saturday 2nd July. This event was part of the Royal British Legion's 90th anniversary celebrations, and saw a parade of the standards representing many of the Legion branches from across the county. The parade was led by the 1st Pensnett Boys' Brigade, and then the Blackwell Concert Band entertained the crowds for the rest of the afternoon. There were stalls, attractions and refreshments, which all helped make this a memorable event. We hope that next years Catshill Music Festival will be even bigger with many more events. The festival has its own website; www.catshillmusicfestival.co.uk where you can stay informed about next years event.

GOLDEN PLAICE

Fish & Chips

139 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

01527 876318

FRESH FISH Delivered DAILY

Under New Management
Pies Kebabs & much more

Card Payments accepted



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.

Tulip Tree Childrens Centre

TULIP Tree Childrens Centre is run by Action For Children and is situated adjacent to Catshill First School & Nursery in Gibb Lane where all families with children age 0 – 5 years old are welcomed.

The Centre is committed to ensuring the well-being of all children in the belief that families should have access to the support they need. Family Support Workers offer help and advice both in the Centre and through home visits. The Centre also offers a range of activities to help children develop and support families and new parents.

Tulip Tree Children's Centre works in close partnership with other organisations locally, including Health Visitors and Midwives, the local School, Citizens Advice Bureau, Family Information Service, Job centre Plus and Homestart.

For more information please contact the Centre Lead, Kerry Cullen on 01527 879951 or call in at the Centre where a member of the team will be able to help you.

Parish Plan Completed

AFTER several years of consultation the parish plan for Catshill & North Marlbrook has been completed. If you are not sure what a parish plan is, or what it's for.... Don't worry. Each home within the parish will receive a copy of the plan in the near future and it will also be available on the parish web site.

Flower Power

BY the time you read this newsletter, the judging of the annual parish flower display will have taken place. All winners will be informed by post, and the results will be published on the parish website.

If you have a competitive spirit, then don't forget that we will be holding our annual Christmas lights competition, details of which will be in the next newsletter.

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

Write to the Parish Council:

Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane

Catshill, BROMSGROVE B61 0JZ

Telephone: **07813 671 899**

clerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Catshill



Pizzaman

Voucher Offers - Sunday to Thursday Only

August Offers

Any 7" Margherita

~~£3.99~~

ONLY **£1.99**

September Offers

Any 7" Margherita

~~£3.99~~

ONLY **£1.99**

October Offers

Any 7" Margherita

~~£3.99~~

ONLY **£1.99**

Any 9" Margherita

~~£4.99~~

ONLY **£2.99**

Any 9" Margherita

~~£4.99~~

ONLY **£2.99**

Any 9" Margherita

~~£4.99~~

ONLY **£2.99**

Any 12" Margherita

~~£6.99~~

ONLY **£4.99**

Any 12" Margherita

~~£6.99~~

ONLY **£4.99**

Any 12" Margherita

~~£6.99~~

ONLY **£4.99**

Any 14" Margherita

~~£8.99~~

ONLY **£5.99**

Any 14" Margherita

~~£8.99~~

ONLY **£5.99**

Any 14" Margherita

~~£8.99~~

ONLY **£5.99**

One voucher per transaction. Voucher not exchangeable for cash. Photocopies not accepted.

Offer does not include ½-½ or Stuffed Crust

01527 557 488 Open Daily 5pm - 11pm

153 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove. B61 0JZ