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Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

Newsletter Summer 2014

METHODIST CHURCH CENTRE EXTENSION OPENED



Rev Andy Lyons and Rev Richard Wilde dedicate the new extension to Catshill Methodist Church Centre.

SUNDAY 27th July 2014 saw the official opening and dedication service of the new extension to Catshill Methodist Church. The service was jointly conducted by the Rev Richard Wilde, and the Rev Andy Lyons (who was minister when this latest project started).

Back in 1968 when the main new church building opened, it was envisaged that the wall facing Golden Cross Lane would eventually be knocked through to allow an extension. Although the building has been extended at the back since 1968, it has taken 46 years for this particular phase of the building to come to fruition.



The new entrance

The improvements have seen a new large glass fronted entrance porch added to the church with internal glass doors creating a very welcoming open space. The original porch has been converted into a sizable kitchen with serving hatch, and a toilet for the disabled. A new ramp has also been added to allow easier access for less able bodied visitors within the building. Various new activities are planned for this part of the centre, including a coffee shop which will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10am till midday.

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

ALONG with the district councillors Helen Jones for Catshill and Brian Cooper for Marlbrook and our Community Support Officer Sarah Harvey, I have been out and about on the PACT walkabouts during the last few weeks. Supported by the West Mercia Police Force 'Safer Neighbourhoods Team' PACT stands for Partners and Communities Together and gives you the opportunity to tell your local policing team, local authority and other partner agencies about issues that are causing concern within your neighbourhood. It has been good to speak to so many of you during these outings this summer. I personally feel that this is the best way to meet with residents and discuss the important issues in any particular area. It is planned to cover the majority of the roads in Catshill and North Marlbrook before the end of the summer, so please do look out for the advertising posters on the local notice boards. It has been very satisfying to hear from residents who have commented that previous problems have been resolved and that they no longer have any issues.

It was a great pity that the new bus shelter in Gibb Lane was damaged so soon after it was erected even though we replaced it as soon as possible. It is believed the damage was caused by a large trailer attached to a vehicle parked on the pavement which hit the shelter as the vehicle was driven away.

We are really pleased with the planting of the flower bed in the Ivy Gardens which has again been brilliant this year and we



have the Chelsea Flower Show award-winning team from Birmingham City Council to thank for that. Also the other two gardens maintained by the Parish Council are doing well and becoming established and these combined with the spring bulbs planted last autumn are brightening up the area. We also hope to see many more poppies appearing throughout the parish as the year

progresses, thanks to the availability of poppy seeds from B&Q via the Royal British Legion.

I hope you agree with the parish council's actions so far and welcome your comments on where we can make further improvements.

Cllr Alan Kelly

THE FRIDAY BRIDGE CLUB

The Friday Bridge Club plays friendly, competitive duplicate bridge in Burcot Village Hall.

New members and visitors are always most welcome, so if you would like to play bridge just arrive by 7.00pm on any Friday at Burcot Village hall, to enable play to start promptly by 7.15pm.

If you would like further details, then call Gill on 01527 401019

HEREFORD & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service provide advice to everyone and for the more vulnerable a free of charge fire safety check in the home.



HEREFORD & WORCESTER
HWFR
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Our evidence shows that people who are more at risk of an accidental house fire are older people, people who live on their own, people with reduced mobility and individuals who may not be able to respond quickly to a fire. We all like to think this will never happen to us, but unfortunately it does, with sometimes terrible consequences so our aim is to keep you safe.

As its name suggests, a Fire Safety Check in the home involves representatives from Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service calling at your home to offer safety advice specific to your household and personal circumstances.

During the visit, they will check your smoke alarms and install new ones if needed, and will ensure that you are doing all that you can to avoid the risk of a fire in your home. They will also help you work out an escape plan in the event of fire.

We would urge anyone who might be vulnerable themselves or knows an elderly family member, friend or neighbour who lives on their own or has reduced mobility that might benefit from a visit, to get in touch using the number below and request one on their behalf.

To see if you qualify for a Free Fire Safety Check contact the Community Safety team on **0800 032 1155** quoting reference *PN14*.

If you would like me to run a free fun session for an older peoples group looking at “Keeping Safe From Fire As We Get Older” contact JBrant@hwfire.org.uk or ring 01905 368 251.

Note that those doing the Fire Safety Checks will always make an appointment in advance of their visit, and will always carry identification which they will be very happy to show you.

Dates for Your Diary

It's never too early to add these important dates to your diary:-

Bonfire & Firework Display

on the Meadow

Saturday 1st November 2014

Annual Remembrance Service

Sunday 9th November 2014

A New Group for Carers

CALLING all carers! You are invited to join a new carer's group, meeting at the newly extended Catshill Methodist Church Centre on the last Tuesday of the month.

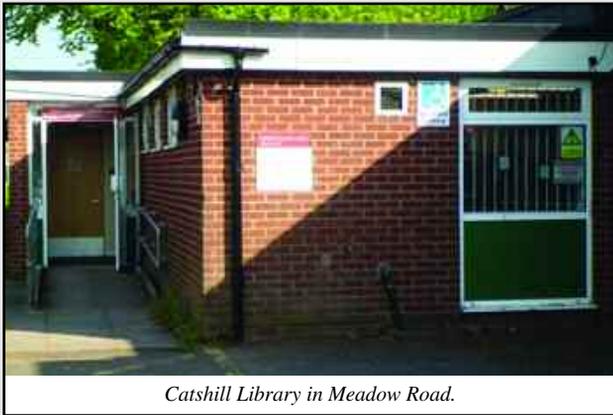
"*Carer's need time for themselves*" was a comment made by Mary, a long time carer for her disabled husband, and it was this that has led to the formation of a group that will meet monthly to allow carers to have time away from the person they care for, and time for themselves with other like minded folk.

All carers are very welcome to come and enjoy quality time for themselves, time to relax and chat over a cuppa and a cake. The next meeting is on September 30th from 2.30 to 4 pm.

Anyone who wants to know more can contact Sheila on **0121 445 2813** or Di on **0121 445 3595**.

Catshill Community Library

IT has been just over a year since the re-location of Catshill's library to Catshill Middle School community room. This friendly library, open on 5 days a week on Saturday and Monday mornings, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, is staffed by local volunteers supported by a member of staff from Rubery Library.



Catshill Library in Meadow Road.

It's easy to find us- we're straight across the playground of the Middle School on Meadow Road, and there is disabled parking available on site.

We have a variety of activities for adults and children alike, including 'bounce and rhyme' sessions for parents with toddlers on Monday, and a

Saturday morning 'story time' as well as a range of public-use computers with internet access, job-club, an active readers group and computer classes. Our range of books is constantly being updated with both fiction and non-fiction issues and the interactive online service means you can order and renew books whenever you like. As well as books, we offer spoken word CDs for adults and children, and a range of current DVDs.

Library manager Katie says, "It's fantastic that this wonderful service has been kept in Catshill, and supported by the local community through the first year. With our diverse range of stock and services, there really is something for everyone, so why not call in - we'd love to see you!"

For more information, please visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/catshilllibrary

IN the last edition of this newsletter we published a photograph of the Catshill First School football team from 1969/70, and in the next edition we will feature a Catshill football team from 1943! However in this edition we turn our attention to cricket.

Pictured here is the Chadsgrove Youth Club cricket team of c1947. The youth club met in the vicinity of where Catshill library is now located at the Middle School, with the pitch being where Chadsgrove school is now.



Back then local youngsters would often attend the Catshill Youth Club and then progress to the Chadsgrove Youth Club as they got older.

Thanks go to Mr. Dennis Poyner for providing this photograph and naming the team:

(Back L to R) Mike Read, Malcolm Floyd, Frank Millership, Brian Manning.

(Middle L to R) Ron Mole, Vic Gould, Jack Stewart, Rex Read, Roy Hartle.

(Front L to R) John Hudson, Jim Stephens, George Allerton.

Don't forget that if you have an interesting photograph from our past and would like to share it, then please let us know!

Clr Paul Masters.

Pop in for a Coffee

**10am till Midday
Fridays & Saturdays**

**Catshill Methodist
Church Centre
Golden Cross Lane**

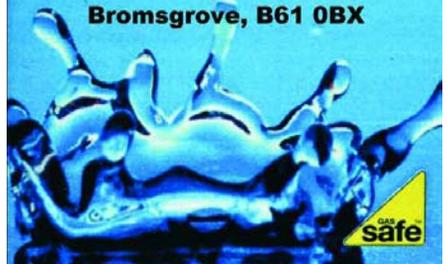
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6 *Where Are the Catshill & North Marlbrook Gardeners?*

THIS is a question that Worcestershire's National Gardens Scheme County Organiser, Dave Morgan, is asking. Dave, whose own garden on the Birmingham Road (opposite the Hilton Hotel) opens each year for the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) is surprised that no other garden lovers have been in touch from the Catshill or Marlbrook area to ask about opening their gardens.

The NGS raises over £3 million each year and successfully gives away almost 80% of this to charities that provide healthcare and nursing support like Marie Curie, Macmillan's and Help the Hospices. David is concerned that many garden owners think that their garden might be too small for the NGS to consider but says that it's not the size that counts, but what is in it.



Oak Tree House Garden, Marlbrook.

The NGS looks at the amount of "interest" there is in a garden, and that interest could well be exotic plants, deep colourful borders, a well-tended vegetable patch or small intricate alpine in troughs – but could also be garden artefacts or old tools, great views and water features – and often is a combination of horticulture and structure. There is even a place for "quirkiness" in a garden.

Typically the NGS is looking for about 30 minutes worth of interest, plus reasonable



Dave & Di's art exhibition.

parking and good access – that is via a garden gate, side entry or through a garage – and not through a house. And if one garden can't provide enough interest, then 2, 3, 4 or more gardens can combine together as a group to provide the level of interest needed to make visitors feel they are getting value for money.

Dave and Di Morgan's Oak Tree House garden in Marlbrook was open to the public on Sunday 6th July and will be open again on

Sunday 24th August (1:30 - 5:50) as part of the NGS. Visitors can also enjoy a gallery of their artwork as well as their beautiful Garden.

If anyone in Catshill or Marlbrook wants more information, advice or indeed if they want their garden considered for the NGS David can be contacted on **07860-438372** or via email at meandi@btinternet.com

Dave & Di's Marlbrook Garden



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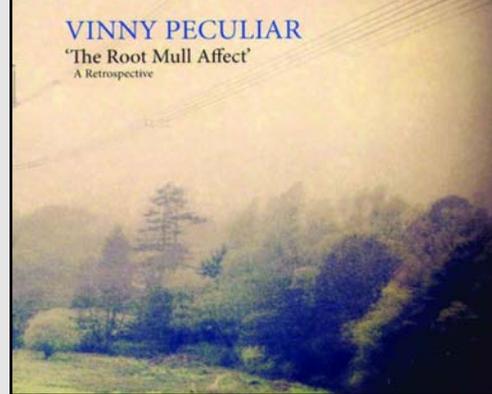
Open All Day

All Food Available to Take Away

WE always like to feature local people who have achieved success, and so in this edition we turn our attention to **Vinny Peculiar**, who although often described as “A Manchester based singer-songwriter and poet,” is better known to many of us as Alan Wilkes who grew up in Catshill.

Vinny (aka Alan) has now released ten albums of lyrical art-pop music over the last fifteen years, all of which have met with considerable critical acclaim. His various

bands have included ex members of The Smiths, The Fall, Aztec Camera and last year he released an album under the band name of Parlour Flames which was a collaboration with ex Oasis guitarist Bonehead.



Vinny’s lyrics often refer to incidents that occurred when he was growing up in Catshill; indeed the title of his current album which is called *The Root Mull Affect* (a compilation of 15 tracks from previous albums, many of which are remixed) refers to a day in the early 1970’s that some of you may remember, when villagers awoke to find graffiti spayed all over Catshill with the words “*Root Mull.*” Even to this day I don’t think anyone knows what it meant, but it’s nice to know that it’s captured

forever in song, as is the infamous “*Egg Incident*” in which Vinny tells the tale of three youths caught throwing eggs in the Barley Mow Lane area!

If you love music with clever engaging lyrics, then visit www.vinnypeculiar.co.uk where you can find out much more about Vinny, listen to some of his music and purchase his albums.

You can also search for the many You Tube videos of Vinny performing live.

What the critics have said about Vinny:

“If Tony Hancock had made pop records they would have sounded like this” - **Uncut Magazine**.

“A songwriter who deserves to be taken seriously” - **Q Magazine**

“...one of the UK’s most criminally under-rated talents; make room in your heart for this peculiar, but highly likeable man” - **W&H**

A Short memorial service was held on Monday 28th July at 7:00pm to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War.

The service was arranged by Catshill & North Marlbrook parish council and the Lickey End branch of the Royal British Legion.

A crowd of parishioners gathered in the evening sun as the Rev. Richard Wilde conducted the service at the War Memorial in Meadow Road. Dawn Bowyer who is the chairman of Lickey End British Legion commented that it was a moving service and that she was glad that the community had come together on this solemn occasion.

Catshill & North Marlbrook parish council is planning to organise other events over the next four years to help commemorate the centenary of the Great War, along with the annual Remembrance services that are held each November.



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THE footpaths across the fields to the south of the parish between the A38, the M42 and Stourbridge Road have been used for many years as short cuts for those of us on foot, for walking the dog and just for somewhere to go to get out of the house! Some of the footpaths are officially recognised and appear on the 'Definitive Map' which is maintained by the County Council (we have a copy in the parish office and there is an interactive map online at www.worcester-shire.gov.uk). Other footpaths have been tolerated by the landowner



but are not officially recognised and it is one of these that has caused concern lately. The access by way of a hole in the hedge to the side of the North Bromsgrove cemetery has been blocked off causing upset to many regular walkers. However the Parish Council has found out that the reason for the blockage is temporary whilst ground-works are undertaken to extend and improve the cemetery. When this work is finished we expect the gate nearest the A38/Barley Mow Lane junction to be re-opened and there will be a grass path around the cemetery's new perimeter. In the meantime Bromsgrove District Council who look after the cemetery have installed new steps to an existing field access way further along the A38 and the County Council, that looks after the official footpaths, have put in a new kissing gate at the official footpath entrance, nearer the Topaz buildings.

Some general points about Public Rights of Way:

There are several different types Public Rights of Way, the two most common ones are:

Footpaths – These are usually marked with yellow arrows and are for walkers only.

Bridleways – These are marked with blue arrows and are for walkers, pedal cyclists and horse riders.

Sometimes there are permissive paths. These are routes which can be used by the public with the consent of the landowner.

New public paths can be created and existing ones extinguished or diverted, but only by statutory procedure and application to the County Council.

Temporary closures are usually in the interests of public safety, to enable works to be carried out, but the County Council must be consulted and the correct procedures followed.

If you want to know more about public footpaths, then just let us know.



The Annual Parish Flower Display Competition
Have You Won?

THE Best Floral Display competition (Tubs/Hanging Baskets) was judged on Sunday 3rd August by representatives of your parish council. Once again we would like to thank everyone for helping to make this warm summer extra colourful with their flower displays. This competition is always hard to judge, and with the heat of the last few weeks many displays have suffered slightly and are not at their best. However, after much deliberation the judges have made their final decision.

All prize winners will be notified and details posted on the parish websites competition page

www.catshillandnorthmarlbroom-pc.gov.uk/competitions.html



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Catshill Meadow Street Theatre Photo Feature

MONDAY the 4th of August saw the Bromsgrove District Council funded Street Theatre arrive on the meadow in Catshill.

The event proved both popular and successful, with large crowds enjoying the fun. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.



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 Lungle, 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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