

NEWS MAGAZINE



AUTUMN 2021

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

What's Cooking

On The Meadow?

Turn to the centre pages to find out!



7th October
Important
Neighbourhood
Plan Referendum
Information
See
Page Two!



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM ON OCTOBER 7th

A YES vote would mean the Plan would become planning policy for our neighbourhood area, which will:

- **Safeguard green spaces and open areas, like the Meadow.**
- **Protect and enhance the environment and wildlife.**
- **Develop a strategy for footpaths, cycleways and green corridors.**
- **Control housing development in the village and ensure affordable homes.**
- **Protect and safeguard local businesses and employment, local services and amenities.**

A summary brochure, explaining the Plan and its benefits in more detail, has been included with this newsletter.

You can download the full Plan and all the background documents from the neighbourhood plan website:

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrookplan.org.uk

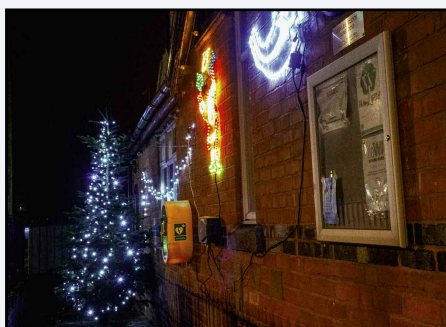


You can vote at the following poll stations near you:

Methodist Church Hall - Catshill Social Club - St. Luke's Church Centre
October 7th between 7am and 10pm

Christmas Lights Switch On

ON Saturday 27th November we will be holding the Christmas Lights Switch On in Catshill. Join us outside the Village Hall on Golden Cross Lane and celebrate the start of the festive season. The event will begin at 3pm and the switch on will be at 5pm. A short amount of the road will be closed in order to make the area safe for everybody. Those who will be immediately affected by this closure will be contacted nearer the time.



Chairman's Address

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WELCOME to the latest edition of our parish magazine. I hope many of you will have been able to enjoy the limited decent weather during the summer.

This edition of the magazine includes a summary brochure, which provides details of the recently completed parish neighbourhood plan, to assist you when making your decision at the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.

I would urge you to read the brochure and then to turn out and vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan at the referendum on the 7th of October.

The plan is the culmination of five years of hard work, undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, ably chaired by Chris Fabray. Much of the detailed work on the plan was undertaken by Chris and some of his fellow steering group members, Phil Sharp and Paul Crysell.

If you vote in favour of this plan, it will give it the same legal status as the Bromsgrove District Council Local Plan. One of the main benefits of the plan is that it gives the parish, legal influence over future proposed planning and development in our parish area.

During the preparation of the plan, we were required to undertake a formal consultation process, and that included speaking to several housing developers, who may be seeking to build houses in our area at some point in the future. We want to ensure that we can influence the location, type, and numbers, of any possible future housing development applications. Please support this neighbourhood plan.

The Parish Council has agreed to work with local churches and other local organisations to discuss arranging a memorial service, potentially in September, specifically for those who have lost loved ones during this awful Covid pandemic. At the time of writing, discussions are very much at an early stage, so we are not yet able to provide more specific details about the proposed memorial service. We will post details onto our website and Facebook pages as and when more information becomes available.

The Parish Council is also considering creating some form of Covid Memorial for our parish area, to remember the many local people who have died during the pandemic. Again, this proposal is very much in its early stages, and I would also like to consider the creation of a small working group, which would ideally include people directly affected by the pandemic, so that we can decide how this proposed memorial should manifest itself.

If any of you have ideas for a Covid memorial, please contact the Parish Clerk with your suggestions.

Councillor Bernard McEldowney

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Catshill Neighbourhood Watch Group Meeting

NEIGHBOURHOOD Watch brings neighbours together with a joint purpose of increasing neighbourliness, community spirit and reducing opportunities for crime by creating a stronger community. By sharing and acting upon crime prevention advice, you can play an important role in helping to reduce crime or fear of crime in your area.

There are already four schemes set up in the parish but it is easy to set one up for your road or local area.

PC Lloyd Stone from West Mercia Police and Bromsgrove Safer Neighbourhood Team is keen to support these initiatives and has said, "I think these schemes will be so beneficial for the local community, they are a great opportunity for me to engage with residents and hopefully answer any questions or concerns that they may have".

Anyone can join Neighbourhood Watch! It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1) Visit ourwatch.org.uk/join and complete the online form. You will receive an email with a link to confirm the application so don't forget to do this.

2) Once registered as a member, you need to join the scheme. To do this, log into your account by clicking on Login from the website or by going to ourwatchmember.org.uk. Select "Find my local scheme", enter your postcode and select your local scheme. Click on the "Login to join the scheme" box.

3) Become an **Active** member for your scheme by talking with your coordinator and make your area safer. Talk with your neighbours about keeping your community safer and raise awareness of issues. Actively make differences in your community and work together to be more resilient. You can also sign up for **Neighbourhood Matters**, the West Mercia Police community messaging system at neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

Cllr Brett Laniosh



Your Parish Council NEEDS YOU

**Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council are seeking
new Parish Councillors for long term relationships...**

Mr, Mrs or Ms Right will need the following:

Communication Skills - good listener, responds to e-mails sent by the clerk, open to new ideas, computer literate and willing to work electronically

Personal Qualities - honest, decent, confident, visionary, forward thinking, proactive, strategic, flexible, respectful of professional knowledge and objectivity of officers, leadership, supportive, polite, patient but tenacious and a good sense of humour!

Commitment - prepared for meetings, team player, punctual, available and accessible for scheduled and ad hoc meetings, takes role seriously, willing to participate, interested, enthusiastic and with a positive outlook

Knowledge - understands council's strategy, understands roles and responsibilities of officers and councillors, understands council's powers, willing to learn and develop, undertake training and understands the Code of Conduct

Communitarian - passionate about the community, focused on the whole community and not a single issue

Basics - stays awake in meetings, treats others with dignity, has reasonable and respectful dress standards for council meetings and who gives the meeting their full attention!

COULD THIS BE YOU?

You might not have all the above but training and guidance is always available.

For further information, please contact the Clerk via email
parishclerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

We Want Your Photographs!

Please help us make our parish website even better by sending us some stunning photographs of our community - It might be a colourful sunset or sunrise, a snow scene or a lovely sunny day. It could show an event taking place, or just capture a lovely garden or tree - anything that showcases what a lovely area we live in will be appreciated.

There are no prizes, but all selected photographs will be added to the site, and you will be given full credit for your photograph (unless you wish to remain anonymous).

DOUBLE THE FUN O

THE Meadow has hosted two free exciting fun events during the summer, helping all that attended to enjoy fresh air as the Covid restrictions relaxed.

Thursday 29th July, saw the return of Bromsgrove District Council's Street Theatre. This colourful event ran from 11am till 3pm, and saw a good turnout of villagers (especially children) who enjoyed four hours of sunshine and events that put smiles on their faces. There were lots of stalls including face painting, craft activities, balloon modelling, exotic animals and much more, along with entertainment from The Wonder Woman Street Show, and a comedy act called Liver Cottage.



ON THE MEADOW!



THEN the fun was doubled, as on Wednesday 18th August Bromsgrove District Housing Trust's Family Fun Day arrived on the Meadow from midday till 2.30pm.

Again kind weather and a good crowd made this free community event another success, with a mix of entertainment including pony rides, bouncy castles, hair chalking, hook-a-duck and more along with a children's entertainer.

These events once again show what an amazing asset the Meadow is to our neighbourhood.

Home Essentials and White Goods Scheme

THIS Scheme has been set up by Catshill Baptist Church to complement the services it provides to vulnerable low income people in Bromsgrove. (Post codes B60 and B61)

“Over two million households are living without an essential household appliance – like a cooker, fridge or washing machine. Whether it’s not owning a kitchen appliance at all, or the machine is broken or faulty, it’s not right that so many are living in appliance poverty. *Source: Turn2us Charity.*



The **Home Essentials Scheme** provides;

- White goods - microwaves, electric cookers, fridges, fridge/freezers, microwaves, kettles, toasters, slow cookers and washing machines.
- Cookware basics
- Crockery & cutlery
- Bed linen packs
- Emergency room heaters

Applications received will be assessed against eligibility criteria such as;

- residence in Bromsgrove;
- households which include dependent children, one parent family, a person receiving care or support from the local authority, vulnerable person due to violence or domestic abuse;
- in receipt of housing benefit, income support, income based Job Seekers Allowance, income related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit;
- experiencing exceptional financial difficulty;
- experiencing a disaster or emergency, such as fire, flood, bereavement.

All requests will be considered on an individual basis with due account given to the vulnerability and personal circumstances of each applicant and treated in strict confidence.

All white goods are new and include delivery and installation by a qualified fitter. No choice can be given on the size, type or style of white goods.

Applications will normally be supported by a referral agency such as support worker, health professional, local schools, and housing or homeless support service.

An Application Form and Terms and Conditions can be obtained from
Catshill Baptist Foodbank by -

Email: foodbank@catshillbaptist.org.uk

Phones: Mon – Wed 07754 567800 Thurs – Fri 07542 102649

Ride the Reservoir 2021

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SUNDAY 18th July saw around 700 cyclists pedal through Catshill, as part of a charity cycle ride raising money for Birmingham's St Mary's Hospice. The event known as "Ride the Reservoir 2021" was non-competitive and proved to be very colourful as these photographs show.



There was a choice of three different routes for the riders, all of which came through the village, with approximate distances of 25km for beginners, 75km for Intermediates, and 100km for Pros.

No road closures were necessary and the event caused no disruption, as the riders were well spread out over several hours.



From our Past by Cllr. Paul Masters



The Essential Marketer Offices.

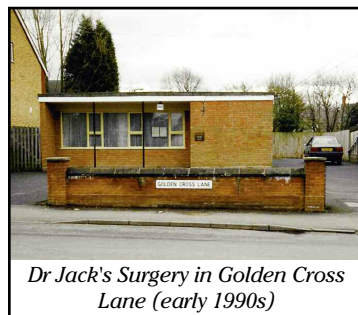
MY thanks go once again to Martin Wells for providing us with two wonderful old photographs of Golden Cross Lane through the ages.

Today, between the Spar and the Fish & Chip shop, you will see the two storey building of the Essential Marketer offices, which many readers will remember was previously the site of the single storey surgery of Dr. R A F Jack

as seen in the photograph on the right, taken in the early 1990s (prior to the doctors moving to the bigger Catshill Village Surgery in Woodrow Lane).

However, I suspect few readers will remember what was on this Golden Cross Lane site before Dr. Jack's surgery...

The answer (as seen in the photograph below) is Jutty Ward's pigsty, which was knocked down to make room for the surgery.



Dr Jack's Surgery in Golden Cross Lane (early 1990s)



Jutty was a well known market gardener who lived in Golden Cross Lane to the right of the pigsty, opposite the Village Hall where the shops are now. He also grew fruit and vegetables such as peas and strawberries on the Horse Course area of Catshill in the 1930s and 1940s, giving useful temporary work to many villagers employed as pickers.

If you have any old photographs of the parish that you would like to share, then please contact us! All previous editions of From Our Past are available on the parish council website www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Catshill Baptist Foodbank

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CATSHILL Baptist Foodbank is preparing for an increase in demand as the covid furlough scheme winds down and some local job losses inevitably follow.

Throughout the pandemic, volunteers have continued to provide supplies for anyone in genuine food crisis, thanks to the generosity of donors.

The foodbank is based at the church but people of all religions, or none, are welcomed.

Emergency bags contain a range of staple long-life foods - something for breakfast, lunch and dinner - as well as some extra fresh items.

Parcels can be tailored to specific dietary needs.

For help, or donations, the foodbank can be contacted in strictest confidence on **07542 102649, 07754 567800** or foodbank@catshillbaptist.org.uk.



Another busy session at the foodbank



Post Box Toppers

HAVE you noticed the colourful Post Box Toppers that appear around Catshill? If you haven't then please look out for them, as they are sure to put a smile on your face!



Post Box Topper at the top of Milton Road

Post Box Toppers are colourful crocheted works of art, designed to fit on top of Royal Mail post boxes; there for all to enjoy.

But who is responsible for creating these entertaining eccentricities? The truth is there are several people behind them, some of whom do not wish to be identified; but I caught up with Rowena Davis who made the topper at the top of Milton Road...

Rowena moved to Catshill in 2003, though her husband Mark was born and raised in the village. She is a member of several crocheting groups and saw a topper created by another group member and thought she would make one herself.

She also became aware of the topper in Welcome Drive created by Sue Bradford, and another by Chadsgrove School created by a lady who does not wish to be named, but who loves to surprise us with her creations.

Rowena makes lots of other crocheted items, such as Baby Blankets, and during the first lockdown she made 50 "NHS Bears," giving them away to nurses, care workers and anyone else that wanted one.

She is currently working on a dinosaur, and considering making a beach themed topper, and with Halloween and then Christmas on the horizon, she hopes to make more themed toppers with the aim of spreading joy, especially to the children of the area.

I am sure you will join with me in saying "thank you" to Rowena, Sue and all the creators of the topper throughout the village. They make us smile!

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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