

NEWS MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2022

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

HAPPY AND GLORIOUS!

The Big Picnic

See Centre Pages



CATSHILL & North Marlbrook Junior Councillors, along with Assistant Head Teacher Danielle McCrory, met with parish clerk Carol Blake and Cllr Brett Laniosh in May. The Junior Councillors give a young people's voice to the parish council and you can read more about them in the previous edition of this magazine (Spring 2022), available from catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/newsletters.

The group suggested ideas for improving the village including a skate park, a Lollipop Person and zebra crossings on busy roads. A Catshill youth club was requested. Other requests were for improved parks/recreation areas with climbing bars, soft surfaces rather than tarmac, climbing walls, trampolines sunk into ground, climbing ropes, exercise equipment and dog training equipment. Other matters discussed included updating parents and family members about the parish council, the Big Picnic in June, the possibility of a presentation by the Junior Councillors at a parish council meeting and encouraging wildlife and biodiversity through the Natural Networks Project.



Cllr. Bernard McEldowney Re-elected as Chair

APART from the monthly* Full Parish Council Meetings, the council also holds an Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, which this year was on Thursday 26th May. One of the requirements of this annual meeting is to elect a Chairperson to serve for the next twelve months. It is with great pleasure that we announce that Cllr. Bernard McEldowney was re-elected as Chair of the Parish Council.

Well done Bernard and Thank You for your continued hard work!

Here Cllr. McEldowney can be seen signing the formal Declaration of Acceptance document at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

**except for August and December*



WELCOME to the summer edition of our Parish magazine.

The Parish Council has been busy over the past few months.

In the Spring 2022 parish News Magazine I welcomed our new parish councillor Abdul Jilani, who had recently joined the parish council. Sadly, Abdul died suddenly and unexpectedly a few months ago. Our thoughts go out to Abdul's family and friends.

Unfortunately, two of our other parish councillors have recently decided to leave the parish council. I would like to thank former councillors Jackie Alderson and Tessa Gillespie for their public service, and I wish them well for the future.

In the Spring 2022 magazine I had also reported that two other councillors had stood down from the council, again for personal reasons. The loss of so many councillors in recent months has obviously had a serious detrimental impact on the ability of the parish council to operate effectively. Thankfully, two parish residents have recently expressed an interest in becoming councillors, so hopefully we will be in a position to co-opt them onto the council in the very near future.

However, we still have a number of vacancies for parish councillors that we would like to fill. If you are interested in joining us please make contact with our Parish Clerk Carol Blake for more details. parishclerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

I am sure that many of you will have attended the Queen's 'Big Picnic' Platinum Jubilee event at Catshill Village Meadow on Sunday 5th June. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in planning for this event, including the local churches, local councillors, members of Catshill Village Meadow Committee, local Community Builder Katie, and others, whose work ensured that it was a successful event. I would also like to thank everyone who attended the event.

Over the next few months the Parish Council will be working with other local groups and individuals on the forthcoming Bonfire and Fireworks Event, the Remembrance Service, Christmas Lights Switch-On and hopefully a Christmas Party for local senior citizens.

Councillor Bernard McEldowney (Chair)

After a 2 year absence

CATSHILL VILLAGE BONFIRE IS BACK!

Saturday 5th November

CATSHILL VILLAGE MEADOW

**6th Bromsgrove (Catshill) Scouts and Catshill Village Meadow
are proud to be hosting the event**

Sponsored by Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council

More details in our next News Magazine

Chatty Benches

YOU may have noticed if you travel, that Chatty Benches are springing up all over the country. They are often brightly coloured and clearly marked, but do you know what they are for?



The answer is that they are to help combat loneliness and reduce social isolation within communities. The idea is very simple... existing or newly installed benches have a sign on them that explains that by sitting on them, a person is happy to chat with whoever comes and sits next to them. The hope is that this simple initiative will help increase face to face interaction, start up new conversations and maybe even create lasting friendships.

With this in mind, your parish council is looking to install one or two Chatty Benches within the Parish, initially (hopefully) one in Catshill and one in North Marlbrook to see if it is worth installing more in the future. One possibility is that we will add a new bench in the Ivy Gardens, but since there are several

manufacturers of these benches, we have yet to choose the design, colour and signage etc, but we do know that we want all Chatty Benches within the parish to look the same, so that everyone knows exactly what they are.

If you have any suggestions as to where a Chatty Bench could be located then please contact the clerk... lets get chatting!

Catshill Community Builder Update

AFTER a successful pop-up table on 25th July outside Spar in Catshill, we have decided to do another on Monday 19th September at 3pm. This will be held in the Dock, Catshill. It will include lots of local information with help and support leaflets. Act on Energy will also be there to talk about any help people may be entitled to with their energy bills. Our local Social Prescriber will also be there to help with any concerns along with local councillor Shirley Webb.

There will be an opportunity to discuss anything else you think our community may need or skills that you may be able to offer.

Please let us know if you would like more information or if you know of anywhere else where a similar event would be helpful. Contact Katie (Catshill Community Builder) with any ideas on **07518292367** or katie@newstarts.org.uk.



SUNDAY 5th June was the day that the parish celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style with a huge event on the Catshill Village Meadow – part of the Big Picnic, and what an amazing event it was!



From 11:00 till 11:50am, all the churches in Catshill got together for a well attended joint open air service on the Meadow. Then at noon Cllr. Shirley Webb officially declared the Big Picnic open!

It was my pleasure to be the announcer, introducing the acts that included an excellent display by the **Star Dance Academy**, local singer **Mitzy** who provided quality vocals in two sessions singing well known pop songs. **Core Performance** who organised a children's keep fit demonstration, and **Chloe May's Dance** Academy who provided more high energy dancing.

Christ Church, Catshill Baptist, Catshill Methodist, the Welcome Hall Evangelical Church, Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council, The Scouts, the Royal British Legion, Catshill Community Builder, the Village Hall and the Meadow (NWWA) were all involved in various stalls that included a Plant sale, Decanter Spirit, Crafts and History, an area where you could learn to play Croquet, and a sweet stall. Other attractions included a Burger van, Pizza Heaven, Betty's Waffles, a Bouncy Castle and a



raffle. Tea, Coffee and Ice Creams were available from the Pavilion, and there was an opportunity to have your photograph taken with "The Queen" plus Bromsgrove's Town Crier made a surprise visit! Then finally at 3:45pm, to round off an amazing day, Catshill Baptist's Rev Simon Gudger - dressed in a colourful Union Jack suit, led the crowd in a flag waving fun Jubilee Prom (see front cover and centre pages for photographs).

Thanks must go to everyone who helped make this a day to remember, including the hundreds of people who attended.

Cllr. Paul Masters



THE BIG PICNIC

Catshill Village Meadow
Sunday 5th June 2022



MOST people who've lived in Catshill for any length of time will have at least heard of Nurse Haines, and will probably know exactly where she used to live; the house known as "*The Thatch*" or more commonly referred to as "*The Nurses House*."

In 1931 Nurse Haines was offered the newly created post of District Nurse in Catshill, and on accepting the position, moved into the newly built thatched house seen in the photograph later that year.

My thanks go to Carl Knowles for supplying this wonderful image showing Nurse Haines outside "*The Thatch*" which some readers will also know became an early surgery for Dr R A F Jack. The waiting room was in the wooden shed seen to the right, with patient's using the side entrance of the house to enter the Surgery for a consultation.

As can be seen in the recently taken second photograph (also supplied by Carl), the house, which is directly opposite the shop next to Catshill First School, still stands, though its thatched roof was replaced with tiles in the early 1980's. The second photograph also shows nurse Haines' grand daughter and great grand daughter posing outside the house almost a century after the old photograph was taken.



In a future edition I will share more information and images of Nurse Haines. As ever, if you have any old photographs of the parish that you would like to share, then please let me know by emailing p.masters@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Don't Forget to use our website

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

It includes interactive features, up to date information, communication links, a very important link to the current Neighbourhood Plan and what is happening about that, all the information contained within the website is aimed to provide residents with information on what is happening within their Parish.

We are also on Facebook if you would like to check us out there too.



CATSHILL & North Marlbrook Parish Council is only a small council, so it does not have a large income and it is not responsible for major services such as education, highways or social services

However, we contribute towards the local area and it is quite easy for residents to get involved and play their part.

Much work is done to improve the environment with planting such as Spring bulbs and displays such as the Ivy garden. Traffic and speeding is also an issue that is regularly looked into, with speed displays recently installed.

Local events are organised that include the annual firework display, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Lights as well as contributing towards the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The Council's most significant role though is now planning since the Neighbourhood Plan was approved in a referendum last year. The Neighbourhood Plan is a legal document that will protect the area against unwanted building and developments, defend the Green Belt and improve the environment.

However to do all this work requires councillors to be involved and contribute towards successful policies and their implementation.

The Parish Council now has 7 vacancies out of the possible 13 councillors and we would like to fill these positions with local residents who are proud of the community where they live, would like to contribute to improving life for everybody in the local area and have a keen interest in the various functions of the Council particularly planning, the environment, highways, finance and organising events in the Parish.

Next year, the whole council will be up for re-election so now would be an ideal opportunity for anybody joining us to find out what it is like being a councillor for just under a year. Anybody aged 18 or above is eligible to be co-opted.

Unlike the District and Council councils, the Parish Council is non-party political with councillors of various shades of opinion successfully working together. Also councillors do not get paid (apart from out of pocket expenses); all work is voluntary though importantly, the commitment is only for a few hours each month.

Anybody interested in being co-opted to the Council can find out more information or even submit an application to the clerk, Carol Blake by emailing parishclerk@catshillandnorthmarkbrook-pc.gov.uk

More information about the Parish Council can be found on our web site, <https://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk/>

Cllr Phil Baker



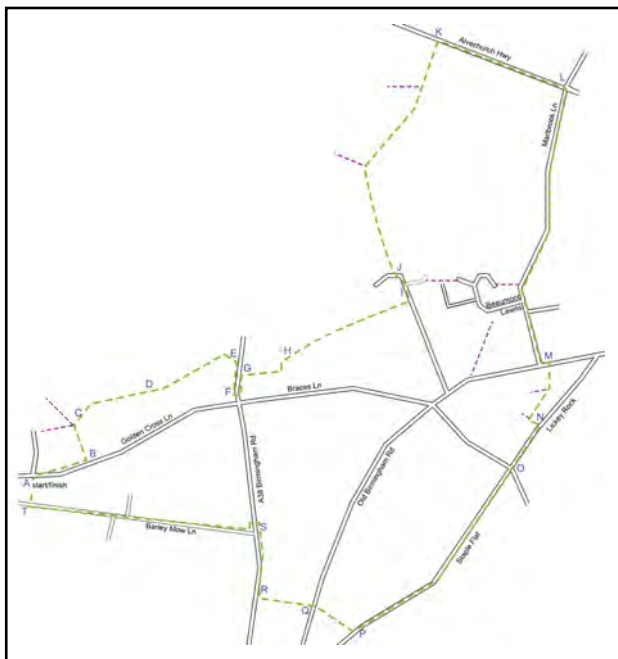
3.6 MILES. Moderate terrain with gentle climbs and one steep flight of steps. Note that two sections are along roads that have no pavement, so particular care should be taken to look out for traffic along these sections.

Start point (A), flower beds and notice board at the junction of Gibb Lane and Golden Cross Lane.

Carefully cross the road and walk up Golden Cross Lane towards the bus stop and turn left at footpath (B). Follow the path until it opens out and turn right passing the Lingfield Walk Play Area (C). Cross the grassed field diagonally to the corner (D) and pick up the path as it runs alongside the flood prevention area for Marl Brook. The path leads to steep steps (E) up to the A38. Turn right at the top of the steps and head to the pedestrian crossing point (F).

Carefully cross the A38 and turn left. After a short distance, head down the access road on your right (G) and turn right again at the bottom of the slope. Continue to follow the drive until it becomes a footpath and does a dog leg left and then right. Follow the line of Marl Brook (H) through the Braces Lane Playground and continue along an enclosed path behind houses until it meets Cottage Lane (I) where you will turn left.

At this point, it is possible to shorten the walk by just over a mile by crossing over, turning right into Cottage Farm Lane and following the footpaths and road (Beaumont Lawns) to Marlbrook Lane. *See map.*



For the full walk, continue along Cottage Lane until you reach footpath (J) and follow it into a field. Continue straight on along the path walking uphill with the hedge on your left. Ignore two footpaths on your left, then, at a corner of the field, pass through the gate where a path runs between two gardens before it finishes at Alvechurch Highway (K) where you will turn right.

Be very careful to watch for traffic along this section of the walk as, after a short stretch, there is no pavement. There are places to step off the road however, and the extensive views to the right including Bredon, Malvern, Abberley and Cleve Hills are superb. Your climb will end at Marlbook Lane (L) where you will turn right.

Walk downhill taking extra care as you approach the bend in the road. After reaching the houses the pavement eventually re-appears. If you have taken the shorter route you will re-join the full walk here. Continue to the junction with Old Birmingham Road (M).

Carefully cross over Old Birmingham Road and pick up the bridleway opposite. Keep left along this section ignoring the footpaths on the right. This path runs behind houses and is uneven in places. It may also be a little overgrown. Continue until you reach Lickey Rock (N). Turn right and walk down the road to the junction with Linehouse Lane. Carefully go straight across into Staple Flat (O). This section of the walk has no roadside pavement, so watch out for traffic. At (P) turn right into the footpath and walk uphill. Cross Old Birmingham Road (Q) into the footpath opposite which will take you down to the A38 (R) where you will turn right. Use the crossing (S) and walk into Barley Mow Lane. Follow the lane almost to the end (T) where you turn right onto the footpath before the supermarket and you will be back at the starting point.

Footpath Work Party – Can You Help?



PICTURED here are some of the Volunteer Footpath Workgroup & WCC Public Rights of Way Officers erecting Waymark Posts in the parish. If you are interested in helping maintain our footpaths then why not join the Catshill Footpath Work Party who meet on weekdays and carry out tasks such as vegetation removal and basic repairs. It is a great way to get out in the fresh air and get some exercise. Email b.laniosh@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk to find out more.

Solar Path Lights Installed

ON the 10th of May the parish council's drive for increased safety for residents, dedication to green technologies and promotion of local firms combined with the installation of two solar powered street lights. The newly developed Solar Path

Light, has net zero carbon emissions, illuminates 16m of pathway and operates on a body temperature motion sensor to conserve energy and increase efficiency. The lights charge in all weather types, from bright sunny days to gloomy cloudy ones, making it a reliable source of light and in turn making dark streets and alleys safer for all local residents. The lights were installed by Reddilight a family-run business based in



*Barley Mow
Lane entrance
to the alley*



*Ivy Gardens
entrance to the
alley*

Redditch, founded in 1992, specialising in the manufacture of street and sign lighting. Managing director Tony Concannon said "We're delighted that our Solar Path Light has been installed locally in Catshill and is helping our neighbours feel safer. We should all feel secure when walking our streets, and we're proud to play a small part in that".

The lights have been installed at each end of the alley between the Ivy Gardens in Golden Cross Lane and Barley Mow Lane. The parish council will be monitoring them with a view to installing more in similar dark areas. If you have any suggestions as to where to install the next lights please email us: s.osman@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.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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