

NEWS MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2023

# CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

*Parish Council*

[www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk)



***SPECIAL CORONATION EDITION***

Turn to the Centre Pages

## New Solar Lights



*First Light.*



*Second Light.*



*Third Light at Oak Road.*



*The Alley at Golden Cross Lane.*

**THE** parish council have purchased and paid for the fitting of three solar lights to a well-used footpath in the parish. Running between Oak Road and Golden Cross Lane, the path was poorly lit when dark, and the new lights will encourage more people to use it. The three new lights (on poles kindly provided by Bromsgrove District Council) are the same design as those that we had installed in the alley between Barley Mow Lane and Golden Cross Lane.

## Extra Christmas Lights

**EACH** year we ask, "Do you want to see more lights next year?" And you always reply "Yes!"

***Well this year there will be more lights!***

Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council have carefully chosen and purchased three fabulous new lamp post lights. They will be extending the lights we already have up to the Ivy Cottage gardens and down to Woodrow Lane.

This year will be even more twinkly and beautiful than last.

***See you at the switch on!***





**WELCOME** to the Summer edition of our parish magazine.

Many of you will soon be preparing for your summer foreign holidays. I do hope you get to enjoy your holidays, but as I write this address, the news is dominated by unusually hot temperatures in many parts of the European mainland and the US, with China experiencing a record-breaking temperature of 52.2°C.

Whatever your personal views on Climate Change are, we must accept that our weather systems are changing, and they will be causing all of us many problems for the foreseeable future. Having said that, have a nice holiday!

You will be aware that Local Elections to Bromsgrove District Council and local Parish Councils took place on Thursday 4th May 2023. One of our very long serving Councillors, Phil Baker, decided to stand down at the election. Phil had served over 20 years on the Parish Council. On behalf of my colleagues on the Parish Council, I would like to thank Phil for his public service, and I wish him and his wife Jane a very happy retirement.

There are positions for 13 councillors on the Parish Council. As fewer than 13 candidates stood for the election, we had what is called an uncontested election, whereby, all of the candidates were automatically 'elected' on the 4th May.

There are still several vacancies on the parish council so we would like to encourage local residents to give consideration to becoming a parish councillor. At the first meeting of the Parish Council, after the local elections, I was re-elected chair.

In addition to standing for the Parish Council elections, I also stood as an independent candidate in the '*Catshill North Ward*' for Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) and managed to get elected to BDC. Councillor Shirley Webb was re-elected for the '*Catshill South Ward*' of BDC. My BDC email is: [b.mceldowney@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:b.mceldowney@bromsgrove.gov.uk). My phone number is **07957 576946**. Feel free to contact me if you want to discuss any Parish Council or District Council related issues with me.

The Parish Council was also involved in funding and participating in several activities during the Kings Coronation weekend.

At the Full Parish Council meeting in June, we co-opted a new parish councillor Mohammed Amin, onto the Parish Council. We look forward to working with Mohammed. At that same meeting we approved grant applications of £1000 from Catshill Methodist Church towards the purchase of a new defibrillator, which will be accessible to the public, and a grant of £500 to Bluwave Community Transport, whose volunteer drivers take their clients to various locations, such as hospitals, doctors, dental practices, hairdressers and to social activities. The service is for people who are unable to access public transport due to illness, mobility, or, through lack of accessible public transport.

*Councillor Bernard McEldowney (Chair)*

***We are entering event season in the Parish!***

These are the important dates you may wish to add to your calendars.

***Halloween***

*The Parish Council will be organising a children's Halloween party at Catshill Village Hall on 31st October.*

***This will include:***

***🦋 Spooky fancy dress competition 🦋***

***🦋 Scary snacks 🦋***

***🦋 Monster music 🦋***

***🦋 Doorstep Princesses 🦋***

***🦋 Party games and fun! 🦋***

***Bonfire Event***

The Catshill Bonfire will return to the Meadow on Saturday 4th November 2023. The Event will be supported again by the Scouts association.

Any donations of wood for the Bonfire will be gratefully received on the day, however, please ensure these are suitable for burning at a community event and do not include treated wood, screws, plastics, nails or glass. Please also remember, personal fireworks and sparklers are not allowed at the event for safety reasons.

***More details and other upcoming events will be posted on our website and social media pages nearer the time.***

***Cover Photograph***

**DATING** from Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation; Dave Coulson's 1953 Alvis TA21, parked outside Christ Church as part of the Catshill Coronation Trail on Sunday 7th May 2023. *Photo: Paul Masters.*

**ONCE** again your parish council along with BDC were happy to sponsor the Easter Egg Trail around the village on Friday 7th April from 11am till 1pm.

The trail started at the village hall on what was a very sunny day. This led to a huge turnout of excited youngsters and adults alike, queuing to get their trail maps, then enjoying a lovely walk following the trail looking for clues around the village.



*Crowds form a line to start the trail.*



*Easter Eggs to be given out.*

On returning to the village hall each child was presented with an Easter egg by either Peter Rabbit or the Easter Bunny.

There was also a supply of hot dogs and fish fingers for sale!

Well done and thank you to everyone involved in this successful event.



*One of the Trail points.*



*Peter Rabbit & The Easter Bunny.*



# A Weekend of Coronation Celebrations in Catshill

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May saw the community come together to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. The parish council was delighted to help fund the two major events within the parish over the weekend.

On Saturday 6th from 10am – 4pm the coronation was shown live on large screens in the Methodist Church where everyone was welcome to watch the ceremony and enjoy friendly company and superb food funded by the parish council.



Sunday 7th May from 2pm saw part two of the celebrations in the form of the Catshill Coronation Trail. A large crowd gathered at the Methodist church car park to pick up their maps and start the trail, which led them to the Welcome Hall where old and young alike enjoyed some free sweets, then to the Village Hall, and then to Christ Church where there was a fun competition within the church, then past Chadsgrove school, Catshill Middle school and Catshill First school, onto Catshill Baptist church where youngsters could make a crown before returning to the Methodist car park where there were refreshments and entertainment from the Nancy Butterfly Women's Morris Dancers.



It really was an amazing two days of community fun, and your parish council was proud to play its part. Thanks go to everyone involved in making these events such a huge success.





IN last summer's edition, I featured "*The Thatch*," the house that nurse Haines lived in from 1931 whilst being the District Nurse / Midwife for Catshill and surrounding area that included Bournheath, Dodford, Fairfield, Burcot and Barnt Green. Initially she covered this considerable area on bicycle with an acetylene lamp for night work and a carrier for her medical bag!



*Nurse Hall.  
(Nurse Haines before marriage)*

However, around 1934 she was provided with a car, an Austin 7 registration number AOE 93 that we see pictured.



*c1934 Nurse Haines in her Austin 7.*

Nurse Haines continued to work in Catshill into the 1960s, and is still spoken fondly of by those that she helped. In 1955, after 25 years of service, she was awarded the Isobel Morcom



*Nurse Haines outside The Thatch.*

medal and prize, recognising her outstanding work in the nursing profession.

Once again my thanks go to **Carl Knowles** for supplying these wonderful images.

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](mailto:p.masters@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk)



*Nurse Haines on a  
Velocette motorcycle.*

IN the previous issue of the Parish News Magazine, I gave details of the main bus services (144, 144A, 212, 318, 147, 90, 145), that operate in the area. Since that article was written, the 144A service has been discontinued and a new service has been introduced.

**20 (National Express)** Running every hour, it will take you to Rubery, Longbridge, Northfield, Selly Oak and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Edgbaston. The service operates a £2 maximum fare service for a single journey and Day Saver tickets are available that can be used across National Express buses that cover the West Midlands and Coventry.

Less frequent services exist and if you get the bug for travelling on very limited or unusual bus services, try the following:

**91 (MRD)** Just one afternoon service to Lickey End, Bromsgrove, Sidemoor and back to Catshill.

**183 (Diamond)** This weekday service leaves early afternoon and will take you to Lickey, Cofton Hackett, Barnt Green, Hopwood, Alvechurch, Rowney Green and Redditch.

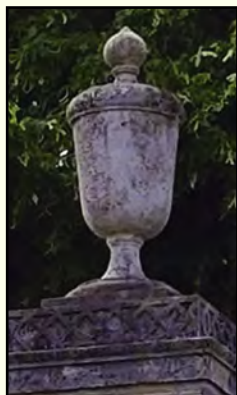
**322 (MRD)** If you want to get to Fairfield, Bournheath, Dodford or Park Gate then you might be interested in this bus that leaves on Tuesday and Friday lunchtime. It finishes in Bromsgrove.

**501 (The Green Bus)** This is a school service, but available to the public and runs weekdays during term time. This single early morning service takes an hour and twenty minutes to get to Alcester going via Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, Lickey, Barnt Green, Alvechurch and Redditch.

**885 (The Green Bus)** Another early morning school service this takes an hour and fifteen minutes to get to Bartley Green going via Lickey, Alvechurch, Barnt Green, Rednal and Frankley.

*(Cllr) Brett Laniosh*

## Where in the Parish?



**ONCE** again here's a fun challenge of identifying what a photograph taken within the parish is of. Take a look... Do you know where/what this is?

We will post the answer on our Facebook page, once all copies of this edition have been delivered. In case you missed it the answer to the spring 2023 challenge, the answer was the metal soldier by the War memorial.

If you have not given our Facebook page a "like" yet, then please do so as soon as possible!

*Cllr Paul Masters*





## New Zebra Crossing

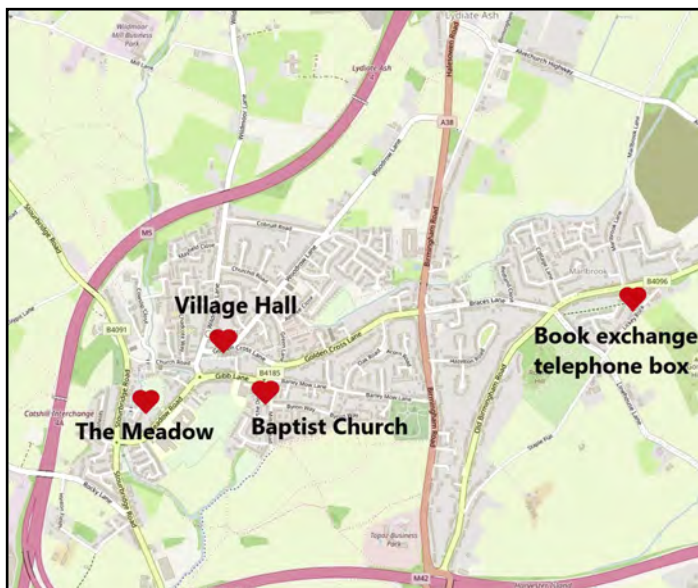
A few years ago a member of the public attended one of our meetings and asked if we could get a Zebra Crossing installed in Barley Mow Lane. Whilst it is not within the remit of the parish council to install Zebra Crossings, we fully supported the idea and were able to get Worcestershire County Council (Highways) to install a crossing by the Co-Op. Other locations have also been considered for Zebra Crossings within the parish, but there are strict legal and technical restrictions that WCC have to apply, meaning suggested locations are not always feasible.



*New Zebra Crossing by the Co-Op.*

There are on-going discussions with the various parties involved to create a new pedestrian access to the Co-Op, thus further increasing pedestrian safety in this area.

## Defibrillator Locations



**PUBLIC** defibrillators, also known as automated external defibrillators (AEDs), are life-saving devices designed to deliver an electric shock to a person experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. These portable devices are typically found in public spaces such as airports, shopping malls, schools, and sports arenas, where immediate medical assistance may be crucial. Public defibrillators are user-friendly and equipped with clear instructions to

guide bystanders through the defibrillation process. They analyze the heart rhythm and determine if a shock is necessary. With their rapid response capabilities, public defibrillators significantly increase the chances of survival by restoring a normal heart rhythm before emergency medical services arrive, providing critical support in critical moments.



**PUPILS** from Chadsgrove School in the Catshill and North Marlbrook area have undertaken the construction of bird boxes, contributing to environmental conservation efforts. These installations involve the placement of specially designed boxes in the local surroundings to provide nesting spaces for birds. This initiative aims to enhance the biodiversity of the area by attracting and supporting local bird populations. The project not only provides valuable habitat for birds but also fosters a sense of environmental responsibility among the students, promoting their connection with nature and the importance of conservation.

## Dog Poo



**ALTHOUGH** we live in a lovely area, there are two complaints that constantly appear on social media... speeding traffic and dog poo!

The speeding traffic is being dealt with

by the police who regularly set up speed traps and we also have our illuminated signs warning drivers to slow down.

Now BDC have a campaign to try and stop the minority of irresponsible dog owners from leaving dog mess behind. If you walk a dog, then please clear any mess that the dog may have made.

*Thank you.*

## WARM WELCOME IN CATSHILL 2023

Places to go in Catshill Village



### MONDAY

Catshill Library 9.15am-12.15pm

Willy Bouncing and Physics 10.30-12.00pm at Library. For bookings please email: 01527 881189 or 01527 881189

Catshill Baptist Church 10am-12.30pm

Please see website: 01527 881189 for a guide.

### TUESDAY

Welcome Hall Coffee Morning 10.30-12.30pm

Hot beverages available

Christ Church Coffee afternoon 2pm-3.30pm (1st and 3rd of month)

Hot Beverages available

Catshill Library 9-7pm

Hot Chocolate and Scone stand 1.30pm in library (for parent/guardian and children, hot chocolate £1 - bring your own mug)

### WEDNESDAY

Cozy Cuppa by Chadsgrove School

At Catshill Meadow

10am-3pm (Term time only)

Hot beverages and light refreshments available

Welcome Hall Baby and Toddler Group

1.30pm-3pm

Hot beverages available (only for parents/guardians and children aged 0-5)

### THURSDAY

Time Out @ Baptist Church 11.30am

Please contact Angela 01527 881189 or 01527 881189 for bookings and further details

Refreshments available

Hot beverages available

Hot Chocolate and Scone stand 1.30pm in library (for parent/guardian and children, hot chocolate £1 - bring your own mug)

Catshill Library 9-12.30pm

### FRIDAY

Catshill Methodist Church

2pm-1.30pm Coffee morning

1.30-4pm - different activities monthly (2nd Friday of month - booking may be required)

Hot beverages and food available

Catshill Library 9.30am-12pm

### SATURDAY

Catshill Library 9.30am-12.30pm

Coffee @ Catshill Methodist Church 10am-12pm

Hot beverages available

Refresh @ Catshill Baptist Church 10am-12pm (first Saturday of the month)

Hot beverages and light refreshments available

### SUNDAY

All Churches AM

All these spaces you are welcome to come and will be greeted with a warm welcome

**WI-FI AND CHARGING POINTS AVAILABLE AT SOME LOCATIONS**

Updated June 2023



## Junior Councillors Litter Pick

**THE** local parish council joined the Junior Councillors from Catshill Middle School for a litter pick on July 6th in the village. The ten pupils along with Cllrs Bernard McEldowney and Brett Laniosh removed litter from the Dock, Millennium Way and the lanes around Spenser Walk.



Supporting the group were teachers' Rick Duerden and Emma Aston who said, *"Thank you so much for this afternoon, our pupils had a great time and we are very proud of their hard work!"*



### 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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