

NEWS MAGAZINE



AUTUMN 2023

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk



In the Parish of Catshill and North Marlbrook



**VINNY
PECULIAR**

Join us for the Christmas Lights Switch On

See Page Six for Details

Footpath Work Party

THE Catshill Footpath Work Party meets every month and carries out activities to clear and maintain the public rights of way that exist in Catshill, Bournheath, Marlbrook and Blackwell. The group is made up of local volunteers and is supported by Worcestershire County Council's Public Rights of Way team who supply equipment for the various jobs that are undertaken.

Recent activities carried out by the group have included the fitting of steps on the path that connects the Crown pub with Battlefield Brook (see left), clearing the path that connects Stourbridge Road with Rocky Lane and fitting a revetment to a path in New Rd that was collapsing.

For more information on the group go to walks.catshill.com/footpath-work-party

Cllr Brett Laniosh



Where in the Parish?



HERE is another 'Where in the Parish' fun photo question... Do you know where / what this is?

Once all copies of this edition of the news magazine have been delivered, we will post the answer on our Facebook page.

If you haven't given our Facebook page a 'like' yet, then please do. Simply search for *Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council* from your Facebook page.

We will also publish the answer in the spring 2024 News Magazine.

The answer to the summer 2023 edition *Where in the parish* is: - The ornaments on top of the shop by Catshill First School.





WE are now approaching a busy period for the Parish Council, starting with hosting a Children's Halloween Party at Catshill Village Hall, from 3.30pm to 5pm on Tuesday 31st October. There are no tickets required for the event. If the numbers attending are high, then we will run half hour slots. I would like to thank my colleague Councillor Jess Parry for organising this event.

The popular Catshill Bonfire and Fireworks event will be held on Saturday 4th November. (See advert back page). The Parish Council will underwrite the main costs for the event, and this year the local Scouts will be responsible for full management of the event. I would like to thank them for their significant contribution to the success of last year's event, and

we look forward to a repetition of that success this year.

The Parish Council has already met up with other local organisations to plan for this year's Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November. A service will be held at Catshill Social Club, Meadow Road, Catshill at 10am prior to the main ceremony at Catshill War Memorial.

There will be a Christmas Lights switch on at Golden Cross Lane, outside the village hall, between 3pm to 6pm Saturday 25th November. There will be a Christmas Fayre, Street Food Vendors, dancers, choirs, and of course a guest appearance from Santa. I do hope many of you will join us at this event. The Parish Council is also in the early stages of working with another local charity to arrange a Christmas Party for local senior citizens.

At our recent Full Parish Council meeting, (28/09/23) I am pleased to report that we have co-opted another new councillor, Siavash Khafajizadeh onto the Parish Council. Welcome to the Parish Council Siavash. I should mention that we still have a number of vacancies for parish councillors and would welcome contact from anyone else interested in joining us.

At the recent Full Parish Council meeting we agreed to award grants of £1000 to Bromsgrove Citizens Advice Bureau and an emergency grant of £9500 to the Village Hall Committee for emergency repairs to their roof.

Councillor Bernard McEldowney

Cover Photograph

The Catshill sign located beside the A38, just before Barley Mow Lane. The photo was taken by Paul Masters in September 2023. See page 10 for more photographs.

New Defibrillator

ON page 10 of the summer edition of this news magazine, we published a map showing the location of the defibrillators within our community.

They can be found at:

- **The Village Hall** (opposite the shops in Golden Cross Lane).
- **The Meadow** (in Meadow Lane).
- **Catshill Baptist Church** (Milton Road opposite the Co-op).
- **The Book exchange telephone box**
(Old Birmingham Road opposite Marlbrook Lane.)

Plus now there is a new defibrillator located at:

- **Catshill Methodist Church Centre** (Golden Cross Lane).

Remember public defibrillators are user-friendly and have clear instructions on how to use them in an emergency.



Defibrillators have simple instructions.



New Defibrillator at Catshill Methodist Centre.

Walking Group

A local walking group has been set up on Facebook for people living in the Northern part of Worcestershire, Stourbridge, Halesowen and immediate surrounds. It is totally free to join and use and aimed at connecting people of a similar age range who live locally to each other and maybe do not have a partner or anyone else to go out walking with.

It is still a relatively new group but we have done a few walks already and I would like to think all have been a success! Because the walkers are around the same age, everyone interacts with everyone else at the meet-ups.

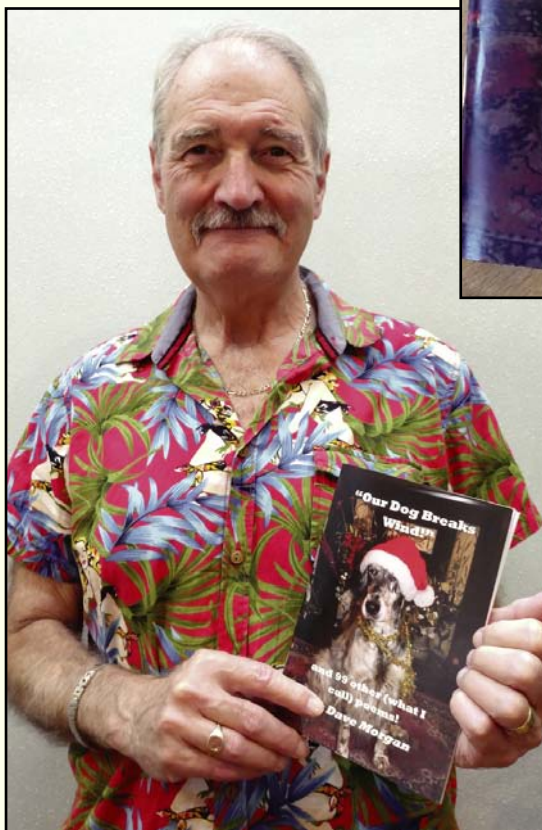
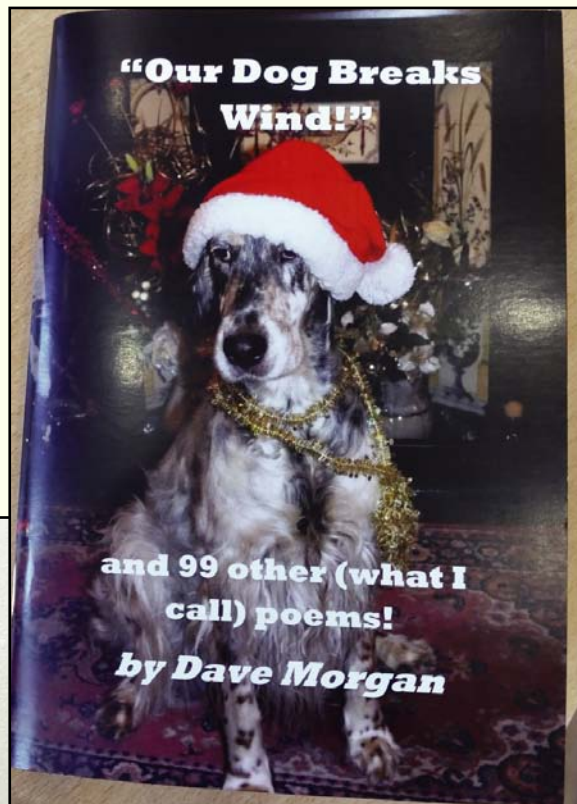
If you are wanting to join an online group but cannot find one quite suitable for your location, age group or hobby, I would definitely recommend setting one up yourself!

www.facebook.com/groups/northworcestershirestourbridgehalesowensolowalkers

Louise Jackson

DAVE Morgan of Marlbrook started writing poetry (or as he jokingly says what he calls poetry) when he was a teenager, and he has continued to write rhymes, ditties and even serious poems ever since. He has written hymn lyrics too.

Dave's poems really are very witty and you can now enjoy 100 of them in his book called "Our dog breaks wind." Let's just say the book is more Pam Ayres than Shakespeare, but that makes it all the funnier. The book itself warns that it is not suitable for serious lovers of poetry, aficionados of the English language or anyone of a nervous disposition but there is a serious twist...



All profits from the sale of the book go to the Bromsgrove Basement Project, a charity doing a fantastic job of helping young people facing homelessness and other issues in North Worcestershire.

Dave along with copies of his book will be at the Christmas Lights switch on at the village hall on Saturday 25th November, so why not buy a copy with its seasonal cover as a Christmas present for someone, and at the same time know that you are helping young people who need all the help they can get.

VINNY PECULIAR

VINNY Peculiar (aka Alan Wilkes) grew up in Catshill and trained as a nurse before signing to Manchester cult label Ugly Man records (the former home to Elbow). He's since put out 14 albums of literate autobiographical pop music over a twenty-year career touring band, solo and duo shows in the UK, Ireland, Europe and the US. What the media say about **Vinny Peculiar**:-

- *'An under sung national treasure'* - **Uncut Magazine.**
- *'A warm hearted Morrissey'* - **Q Magazine.**
- *'The missing link between Jarvis Cocker & Roger McGough'* - **Irish Times.**
- *'One of the finest and most individual and literate voices in contemporary English music, a writer with an eye for the small detail as well as the big picture'* - **Mike Davies.**
- *'If Tony Hancock had made pop records they'd have sounded like this'* - **Uncut Magazine.**



Vinny's past work associations include Bill Drummond (KLF) and his various bands have included ex members of The Smiths, OASIS, Aztec Camera and The Fall. He's also written and recorded as Parlour Flames; a band he formed in 2013 with ex OASIS rhythm guitarist Bonehead.

Some of Vinny's excellent songs have direct and sometimes slightly hidden references to the Catshill and surrounding area of his childhood and youth, for example *'Root Mull'* a song from his *'Growing up with Vinny Peculiar'* album tells the tale of the day in the 1970s when we awoke to find graffiti all over the

village; *'Egg Incident'* from the same album which reminds us that minor youth anti-social behaviour is nothing new! His *'Return of the Native'* album contains a track called *'The Grove and the Ditch'* with reference to the Forest pub, *'Something of Nothing'* from his album *'Other People Like me'* mentions our war memorial, and *'English Village'* from his album *'Down the Bright Stream'* is most definitely all about Catshill.



Many of Vinny's songs have excellent videos that you can view by visiting www.vinnypeculiar.com – take a look and a listen, or just search YouTube.

Vinny has a new album out now called *'How I learned to Love the Freaks'* which is inspired by Hippy Culture, the summer of love and the socio-political awakenings of the late 1960s. It has once again gained critical acclaim.

Vinny will be joining us at the Christmas Lights switch on, where he will perform a few of his songs for us.



Catshill Village

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

25 GOLDEN CROSS LANE 3PM -
NOVEMBER CATSHILL 6PM

CHRISTMAS FAYRE, STREET FOOD VENDORS

DANCERS, CHOIRS,

& THE BIG MAN HIMSELF & SPECIAL GUESTS

Come join the Christmas Cheer





Entrance attached to the curved wall.

Mr. Frank Cook (a former Parish Councillor) I was invited to view this intriguing link to our past that resides at the bottom of his garden in Church Road.

Over the years Frank has also dug up an array of items that must have been part of the nail-masters complex in Church Road from his back garden; these include an ornate handle and other metal objects that could have been part of a machine, various bottles, and a slate tag (perhaps from a bag of nails) inscribed "W FRY Taunton 1862."



Slate tag dated 1862

their small nail shops attached to their cottages, they would work long hours, often with their wives and children to forge the rods into nails. The average Nailer produced around 12,000 nails per week, but it is said that the nail-masters, who paid the nail-makers a pittance per thousand nails, would weigh in 1200 nails to the 'thousand' thus further exploiting the poor Nailers; and then sell on only 800 nails to the 'thousand' to make even more profit for themselves!

If you have any interesting photographs or items from our past, then please email me at p.masters@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

IN this edition we will take a look at an old "hidden entrance" and some interesting objects that all relate to the house known as "*The Laurels*" which was the Nail-masters residence in Catshill, located in Church Road roughly where Marsh Way is now.

Although "*The Laurels*" was demolished in the 1930s, it appears that a section of wall and an entrance gateway that was part of the complex (as can be seen on old maps of Catshill) still exists! Thanks to



Various old bottles.

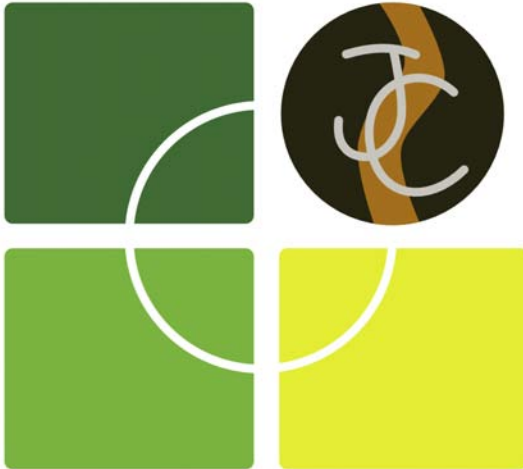
Thank you Frank, for sharing these interesting items with us that relate to the story of nail-making in Catshill and surrounding area. It is well documented that nail-making is a tale of low wages, exploitation and poverty.

According to the excellent book "*A Place Called Catshill*" by P. H. Mobley, each Saturday morning the Nailers of Catshill would collect their orders and supply of iron rods from Thomas Parry & Son in Church Road (or one of the other warehouses in Meadow Road or Golden Cross Lane), then throughout the week, in



Ornate machine parts

THE number of new Junior Councillors made up of children from different year groups has increased. The group is there to share their and other young people's likes and dislikes about Catshill and what they would like to see happen in the future. At a meeting held at Catshill Middle School with Cllrs Karl Burgess and Brett Laniosh in October, the group discussed a number of issues of concern. These included litter (the replacement bin on Millennium Walk was welcomed), threats from teenagers, vicious dogs and e-scooters. They also mentioned that vapes and alcohol were being offered to them. These issues and a request for more play equipment for younger children will be taken to the Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council for discussion at their next meeting.



CATSHILL HALLOWEEN PARTY

31 OCTOBER, 2023
3:30PM - 5PM

SPECIAL GUEST HOSTS

FAMILY GAMES **SINGING & DANCING**

COSTUME CONTEST

LOTS OF FANGTASTIC SNACKS

CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL
GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL

FREE EVENT

IF HIGH NUMBERS, WE
WILL RUN
HALF HOUR SLOTS

Remembrance Sunday

*Sunday
12th November
'23*

*Service, 10am
@
Catshill Social Club
Followed by
Service @
Catshill Memorial
@ 10:45am*

*Tea/Coffee & Bar
Open After
All proceeds to
Poppy Appeal '23*

Catshill
and North
Marlbrook
Parish Council

Blackwell
Concert Band

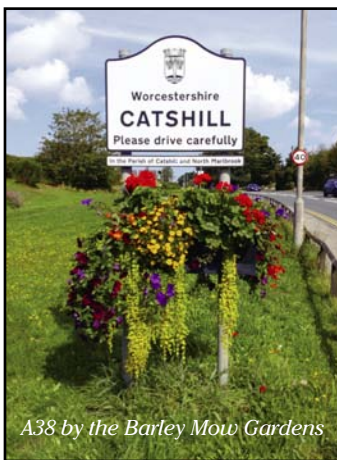
Scouts
6th Bromsgrove

Churches
Of
Catshill

Catshill
SOCIAL CLUB



*Stourbridge Rd
opposite Willowbrook*



A38 by the Barley Mow Gardens



*Stourbridge Rd by the
Motorway Bridge*



*Wildmoor Lane by the
Motorway Bridge*

AS this summer comes to an end and we move into the cooler seasons its worth reflecting on what a lovely area we live in, and how the various gardens, welcome signs and planters enhance our parish. Here we take a look at the Ivy Cottage garden, the welcome signs and one of the many wooden flower troughs located within the parish.

Your parish council maintain the Ivy Cottage, Diamond Jubilee, Remembrance, Barley Mow and War Memorial gardens, along with the welcome sign planters; whilst 'Catshill in Bloom' funded by the County Council is responsible for the wooden flower troughs, which are planted by local school children. As this year's flowers fade, rest assured that new displays will appear next year.



One of the many Roadside flower troughs



The Ivy Cottage Garden

THE George Wagstaff Memorial Meadow in Catshill, known simply as The Meadow, continues to be a hub of recreation, entertainment and enjoyment for the people of Catshill and surrounding area.

The Meadow will once again be the venue for the annual bonfire and fireworks display that is organised by the **Catshill Scouts** and heavily sponsored by **Catshill and North Marlbrook parish council**. This year's event will be on Saturday 4th November, but back on 28th August, the annual August Bank Holiday Car Boot sale took place, and as can be seen from these photographs, the weather was reasonable and the sale was well attended with a large, colourful array of stalls to visit.



Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta (left) selling items to support orphans in Zimbabwe.



Another colourful stall.



There was an excellent turn out.

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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Published by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

Hosted By 6th Bromsgrove Scouts
Sponsored by Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council

Catshill Village Bonfire is BACK

Saturday 4th November

Catshill Village Meadow

£3 per Adult

£2 per Child

Pay on Gate

Gates Open 5:30pm

**Bonfire & Fireworks Display
Street food and Novelty Lights**