

Delivered to 3000 Households

Catshill & North Marlbrook

Parish Council

Newsletter Autumn 2013

A Message from the Chair

ONCE again, it has been a busy period for the Parish Council. I have now walked most of the Parish with the Community Support Officers and District Councillors Helen Jones (Catshill) and Brian Cooper (Marlbrook). These have all been very informative and have allowed residents to discuss their concerns with us. It was very nice to have the opportunity to meet so many of you during the many miles we walked. Many of these concerns have now been addressed.

On the Saturday of August Bank Holiday, after a few telephone calls from residents, Councillor Jones and myself attended the Bovis development off Church Road. A riser from a large water main had become damaged, resulting in very large amounts of water entering the brook. Engineers from Severn Trent were on site along with the site manager and they managed to put various safeguards into place. The Parish Council continues to monitor the situation on site.

The Parish Council will again be sponsoring the Firework Display and Bonfire on Saturday 2nd November and will be working with The Royal British Legion to hold the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 10th November. Additionally, this year we will be providing an illuminated Christmas tree outside the Village Hall. We have planted more spring bulbs and will be looking for more areas to plant in the autumn of 2014. We are also reviewing bus shelters within the Parish to determine if any need replacing, and then will look at a long term replacement plan.

Alan Kelly, Chairman



Catshill Bonfire
ON THE MEADOW
SATURDAY
2ND NOVEMBER
See Back Page for Details

Remembrance
Sunday
10th November
Full Details On Page Six

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Flood Alleviation Update

THE good news is that Green Lane residents may be able to sleep easier now that plans are in hand to install a solution to the flooding that follows a bout of heavy rainfall. The North Worcestershire Water Management team (NWWM), having worked with bdht and the county, district and parish councils along with the local flood action group, intend to provide a large capacity 'flood-storage area' in the current meadow land to the north-east of Lingfield Walk recreation ground. The new installation will work in a similar way to the series of 5 pools which have recently been modified, and will have a weir to take water into the pool during flood conditions. The stored water will then be released slowly through a control pipe back into the brook after the peak flows have subsided. It is believed that the new pool will take up to eight times the amount held by the current series of pools, and by managing the volume of water upstream the culverted system nearer to Green Lane and beyond should be able to cope better during flood conditions. NWWM are providing no guarantees that this is the perfect solution but we are hopeful that the ever-present sandbags may soon be consigned to the scrap heap!

Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030

BROMSGROVE District Council (BDC) has published its proposed submission version of the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030. This plan sets out how BDC wishes to see the district develop up to 2030 and includes the locations for new housing and employment development and a strategy for regeneration of the Town Centre along with BDC's policies for protecting the valuable natural and historic environment across the District.

BDC are now inviting representations to be submitted on the soundness of their plan. The plan and all its supporting evidence along with full details on how to make responses on soundness can be accessed via www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/bdp and a paper copy can be viewed in Catshill library and the Parish Council office. The representation period runs from the 30th September to the 11th November 2013.

New Parish Council Office Phone Number

IN each newsletter and also on our website we carry a reminder that the parish council clerk is available every Monday and Thursday in the parish office within Catshill Village Hall, from 10am till noon. We are pleased to announce that the parish office now has a dedicated landline number which can be used in addition to the existing mobile number as follows:



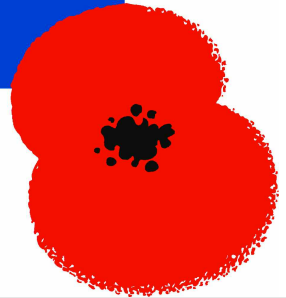
Mobile: 07813 671899 - Parish Office Land Line: 01527 873266

Royal British Legion News

THIS year the Poppy Appeal launches on Saturday 26th October and for the following two weeks Poppies and other associated merchandise will be available from many outlets within the community. The Chairman of Lickey End Branch, Dawn Bowyer stated “this year we are hoping to increase our collection in the Catshill, Marlbrook and Lickey End areas. Last year you, the residents, helped us to once again break our target and in doing so win a County Award for the second highest increase in the Poppy Appeal over a three-year period. This is very encouraging as the Poppy Appeal is vital in raising funds for our beneficiaries. Currently The Royal British Legion are paying out over £1.7million per week and this figure is set to rise due to many factors, including the longevity of our veterans.”

To further aid the appeal, the Branch are hosting a Poppy Concert in association with Blackwell Concert Band on the evening of Friday 8th November at Catshill Club. Tickets are available Village Pets in Catshill or from the Branch Secretary Alan Kelly on 0121 445 2574.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



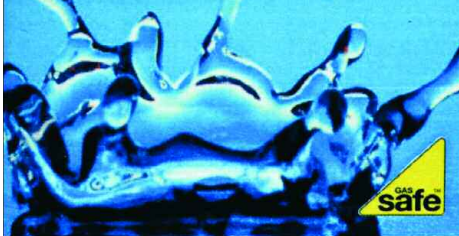
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safe

In This Edition

- Page 1** From The Chair
- Page 2** Flood Alleviation Update
Bromsgrove District Plan
New Parish Council Tel Numbers
- Page 3** Royal British Legion News
- Page 4** From Our Past
- Page 6** Parish Council Finances
Remembrance Sunday
- Page 7** Local Policing News
Competitions Winners
- Page 8** Catshill The Movie
- Page 9** New Christmas Tree
- Page 10** History of Nailing
- Page 11** Parish Council News
Catshill First School Centenary

From Our Past – Who was George Wagstaff?

THROUGHOUT the year, as many of us use the wonderful facilities of the George Wagstaff Memorial Meadow and perhaps especially at this time as we lead up to the annual bonfire and fireworks display on the Meadow, you may wonder exactly who George Wagstaff was, and what did he look like.

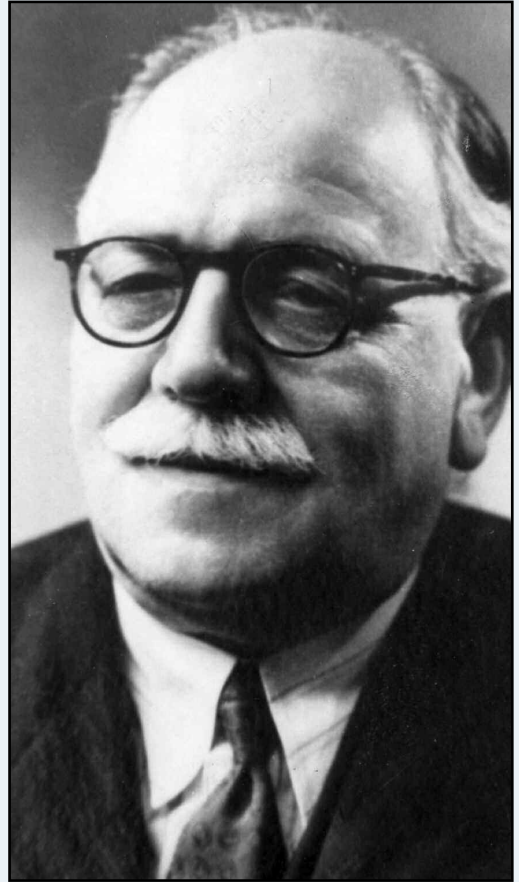
So this edition's photo from the past is of the man himself.

George was born in 1885, and died in 1949, having lived in Barley Mow Lane Catshill. During the 1930's he was the Chief timekeeper at the Austin Motor Company in Longbridge, he was also a Justice of the Peace, a School Governor and a County Councillor!

George also loved football and was especially well known for running the Catshill Village Hall Football Club. This team were extremely successful in their day, becoming champions of the Worcestershire Combination League on several occasions. They also enjoyed great cup successes, and George even took the Village Hall based team abroad to play in Belgium!



Interestingly, most (if not all) of the team were employed at the Austin Motor Company, and after work on a Saturday



morning a Harris coach would pick the players up from Longbridge and bring them to George's house for a meal and to prepare for the match later that afternoon.

George was known by everyone in the area and was much respected.

I would like to thank Mr Jack Stewart for information for this and a previous article about Catshill's FA Cup winning footballer Roy Hartle.

If you have an interesting photograph from the past that you would like to share, please let us know.

Cllr Paul Masters.

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Parish Council Finances

THE Parish Council's accounts are checked every year by an external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission; fortunately no matters of concern have been raised due in part to good book keeping and sound financial practices. The main bulk of funding that is used to run the parish council is the 'precept' which is a levy on all council tax payers in the parish paid along with the council tax and for the 2013/14 financial year this amounts to an average Band D household payment of £11.55 for the year.

This funding goes towards the upkeep of the small garden areas at Braces Lane, Barley Mow Lane and Golden Cross Lane; events such as the annual bonfire and firework display and the Remembrance Sunday service; upkeep of parish council-owned bus shelters and notice boards; providing comment on planning applications and the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan; management of the parish Lengthsman service; this three-times-a-year newsletter; grant support for community groups; support to other councils on projects such as the Catshill community library; litter picking in the parish and administrative services.

As a council we would like to think we get it right most of the time but we don't know unless you tell us! We would very much like to hear from you what you think about the service we provide and how we can improve. Our contact details are on the inside back page.

In brief, from the audited accounts for the year ending 31/03/2013 the parish council's income was £30,143 and payments amounted to £32,428 with a carry forward figure of £38,367. A copy of the council's annual return is available for any parish resident to view upon request.

Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2013

THE annual service of remembrance will be held on Sunday 10th November starting at 10am in the Catshill Social Club crossing over to the War Memorial at 10.45am for a short act of remembrance accompanied by Blackwell Concert Band with the reading of the names of the Fallen and the two minutes' silence at 11am.

Everyone is invited to attend to remember those residents of Catshill who, since the First World War, have given their lives in defence of our country. Refreshments will be available afterwards in the Social Club.

The roads around the War Memorial will be temporarily closed to ensure the safety of all those attending. The roads affected are Stourbridge Road between Rocky Lane and Church Lane, including Crownhill Meadow, Churchstone Close and Westfields; Meadow Road, Woodbank Drive and side roads. As these roads will be closed between 10.40 am and 11.20am we would like to ask residents to prepare in advance if they need to use their vehicles during those times by parking outside the closure zone or planning their journeys accordingly.

Local Policing News

IT has been a time of change for the Police in general but as the Local Policing Team we are now going to be called 'Bromsgrove North and Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team'. The team will consist of a Safer Neighbourhood Officer PC Kelso and PCSOs Sarah Harvey and Stacey Hegenbarth along with the support of 3 Special Constables.

We have said a sad farewell to PCSO Kirsten Bowkett who has gone on to pastures new after nearly 6 years of working in the Catshill and Marlbrook area. We will no longer be based from an office near the M42 island as we have been relocated to Bromsgrove Police Station awaiting the opening of the new joint Police/Fire station venture next year. These changes will not affect the service you receive from your Safer Neighbourhood Team. PCSOs have also recently been given new powers and will be working until midnight in the hope this will reassure residents.

Over the past few months there has been a policing operation (Op Guard) in place to provide high visibility patrols to reduce burglaries, so far this has been a great success. As the nights draw in and for security reasons we actively encourage residents to leave a light on in their property and be as vigilant as ever with their security.

Just a gentle reminder please during the cold weather which we will no doubt be getting at some point, don't be tempted to leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running in order to defrost it, it only takes seconds for someone to jump in and drive off with your car. I am pretty sure your insurance company won't be very sympathetic.

Catshill and Marlbrook remains a low crime area. Thanks for reading and stay safe. If you would like to contact the team you can drop us an email via bnr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CSO Sarah Harvey 6278, Bromsgrove North and Rural SNT

Summer Flower Competition Winners 2013

IN last years autumn newsletter we offered congratulations to the summer 2012 flower display competition winners, highlighting that they had done well despite the difficult growing conditions caused by the poor summer. This year we find ourselves offering congratulations to the winners who succeeded in keeping their flower displays looking so good in the equally challenging hot dry weather that we enjoyed!

After parish councillors conducted their customary tour of the parish, prizes for this year have been awarded as follows:

1st Prize 17, Haydock Road, Catshill (£25)

2nd Prize 55, Braces Lane, Marlbrook (£15)

3rd Prize 1, Minster Walk, Catshill (£10)

Well done not only to the winners, but to everyone who helped make this summer so bright and colourful with the wonderful floral displays that we witnessed.

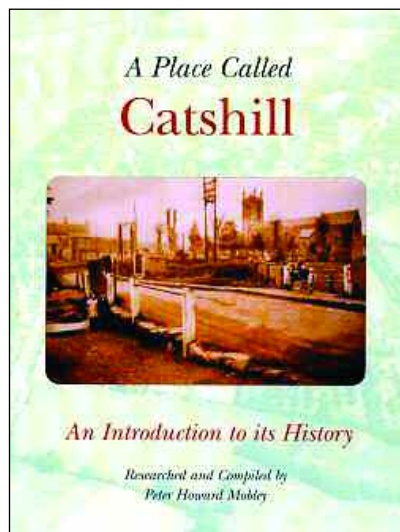
Catshill - the Movie



Some of the audience chat after the films had been shown in Catshill village hall.

ON the afternoon of Friday 16th August a small but enthusiastic audience gathered in Catshill Village Hall to witness the screening of a short film showing the history of Catshill, which had been made by last year's year eight pupils of Catshill Middle School.

It was appropriate that the venue was the village hall as at one time this building also served as the local cinema, something that we may discuss in a future edition of this newsletter.



The pupil produced film highlighted the nail making past of the village and its links with poet A. E. Housman, along with how those involved in the gunpowder plot passed through the area (see below*).

The production was very well received by the audience who were also treated to a second movie that showed how the youngsters had gone about researching and creating the film with the help of a professional filmmaker.

Again this second film was both interesting and enjoyable, and highlighted how the young people had gained worthwhile new skills from their experience. The pupils can be seen referencing the book "A Place Called Catshill" written by Peter Mobley which was first published in 1977, and updated in 2006.

Well done to all who contributed to this project and thank you for taking the time to share it with us.

***Note:** It is recorded that on the morning of 7th November 1605 the infamous Gunpowder plotters Robert Catesby, his cousins Thomas, John and Robert Wintour, Stephen and Humphrey Lyttleton, and other local Catholics fled to Hewell Grange, took armour and gunpowder, and from there escaped to Holbeach House in Staffordshire by way of Burcot, Lickey End, Catshill, Clent and Hagley.

New Christmas Tree

AS mentioned by the chairman in his message on the front page of this newsletter, the parish council will be providing an illuminated Christmas tree outside Catshill village hall from this year onwards. We hope that this will help brighten everyone's Christmas especially those using the local shops, restaurants and businesses. As usual we will also illuminate the war memorial over the Christmas period. The Parish Council would welcome suggestions for brightening up the area during December, so do please let us know what you think.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Poppy Concert

In association with

Blackwell Concert Band

Friday 8th November

at

Catshill Social Club

Tickets are available from:

Village Pets in Catshill

or

**Branch Secretary Alan Kelly
on 0121 445 2574**

GOLDEN PLAICE

Fish & Chips

139 Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

FRESH FISH Delivered DAILY

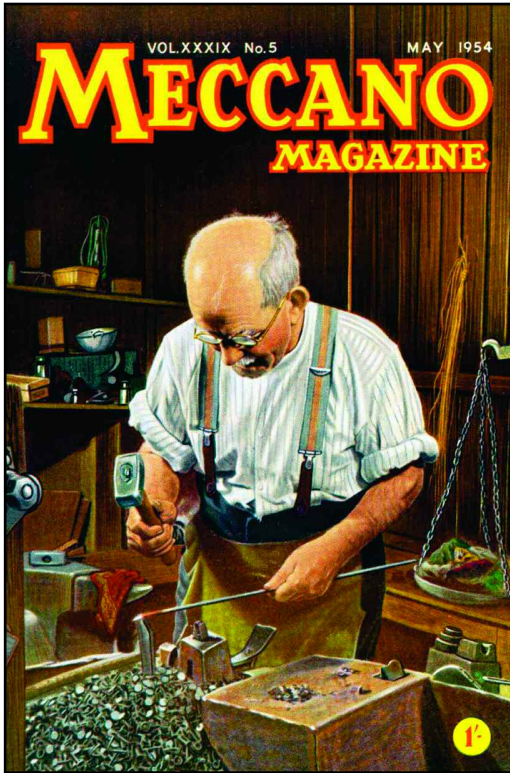
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History of Nailing



THE September 2013 edition of the Bromsgrove Society's newsletter has an interesting cover depicting a nailer at work. It is in fact an illustration originally used on the front cover of Meccano Magazine from May 1954, as can be seen here.

The nailer in question is Mr. Albert Crane, and inside the 1954 magazine the accompanying article shows a photograph of Mr. Frank Weaver at work in his nail shop. A nailer of this name is known to have worked in Golden Cross Lane.

The Meccano Magazine article goes on to explain how by about 1850 no fewer than 50,000 workers were engaged in nail making in south Staffordshire and north Worcestershire, but that from then on the trade went into sharp decline as machines started to take over. By 1900 only 4,300 nailers remained working, with the decline continuing until by 1951 there were just a few nailers left. The magazine clearly

decided to feature these highly skilled survivors of the once mighty trade before it was too late, and goes on to explain how these men were capable of making two brush nails (similar to large tacks) every six seconds! The nails were remarkably uniform in shape and size, even though the work was done entirely by eye.

A study in 1951 showed that there was no possible way of improving the technique of a skilled nailer and that only a machine could beat him in terms of speed.

Returning to the subject of the Bromsgrove Society, you may be interested in attending some or all of their talks that are scheduled for 2014, details of which are available on their website www.bsoc.co.uk.



Mr. Frank Weaver at work in his nail shop.

News From The Parish Council

Motorway Improvements

AT the meeting held on 26th September the parish council heard from Amey and the Highways Agency about plans to improve the M5 motorway junction at Lydiate Ash, j4. This will be good news to anyone who regularly uses this junction and is concerned about the existing confusing layout! The plan is to add an extra lane at the roundabout which will mean widening the two over-bridges to provide four lanes. There will also be improvements to the slip roads (off-slip northbound and off-slip southbound). The work is expected to take up to 12 months to complete, during which time the motorway speed will be limited to 40mph through the road works and there are likely to be some lane closures on the motorway and on the roundabout, partial and full motorway closures and restrictions on the slip-roads.

Amey intend to issue a press release closer to the start date and will write to local residents and businesses before work starts. They also intend to give advance warning of any planned weekend closure with a specific letter drop including maps and further detailed information.

More information can be found online at <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/m5-junction-4-improvements/>

Catshill First School - 99 years and Counting!

NEXT year, will mark the centenary of Catshill First School opening in Gibb Lane, and with your help we would like to celebrate this in the spring edition of this newsletter. Do you have any anecdotes or memories of being a pupil at this school that you would like to share with everyone? If you do have something you would like to contribute; perhaps stories of ex teachers, pupils or the building itself, then please let us know, so that we can all celebrate the first 100 years of this important educational facility within the heart of our community.



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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Catshill Bonfire

The Meadow
Meadow Road
Catshill

Win

a chance to set
off the fireworks

Get your Free Raffle
ticket at the gate

Saturday 2nd

November

Adults £2 Children £1
Under 5's FREE

In association with



Gates open 6.00pm Bonfire lit 6.30pm
Fireworks 7.15pm

Any person carrying alcohol or appearing to be intoxicated will not be allowed entry.
No personal fireworks or sparklers are allowed to be brought onto site.