

NEWS MAGAZINE



SPRING 2026

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk



Scoopit-Do Who Are You?

Find out on Page Eleven!

Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 28 May, when a number of community groups that we have supported and worked with will be invited to attend. Further details will be available on social media and our website.

New Clerk

We would like to welcome Jessica Mathews, who has recently taken on the role of Parish Clerk.

Jessica can be contacted by email at:

clerk@cnmparish.gov.uk

or by phone on: 07813 671899.

Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council
has a new email address: *clerk@cnmparish.gov.uk*

A new website is also coming soon: *www.cnmparish.gov.uk*

Please update your records and address book so you can continue to receive information from your local parish council. Emails sent to our old email address and our current website will continue to work until at least the end of 2026.

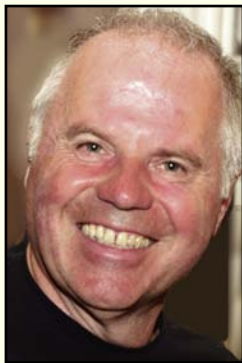
Sad News

It is with great sadness that we announce the deaths of two former Parish Councillors.

Since our last News Magazine, former parish councillor **Glenys Blackmore**, who was a parish councillor for over twenty years, has passed away.

Also, former parish councillor **Frank Cook** has passed away.

Both Glenys and Frank demonstrated a great love for the community and served the parish with great enthusiasm and dedication. They will be greatly missed, and we would like to send condolences to their respective families.



WELCOME to the Spring edition of the Parish Magazine. A great deal has happened since our last edition was published. We have welcomed several new members to the Parish Council and their impact has been immediate and very positive. As a result, we have an exciting programme of activities planned for the coming year. You can find the names and photographs of all councillors on our website.

The Parish Council currently has nine councillors, although our full complement is thirteen. We are therefore able to co-opt additional members who live in or close to the parish. Being a parish councillor is a voluntary role and we meet once a month. We are a positive and forward-looking council,

and I would be very happy to speak with anyone who might be interested in joining us and contributing to the community.

Over the past few months we have also begun making greater use of technology, including holding some meetings online, to improve the way we work. We have established a number of working groups that focus on key areas of the council's responsibilities.

- **Environment and Events** oversees matters affecting our local environment, including the Neighbourhood Plan, and helps organise the wide range of activities that the council supports and manages.
- **Planning** considers planning applications submitted within the parish and decides whether and how the council should respond.
- **Finance, HR and General Purposes** is responsible for the council's budget, governance and staffing matters.
- **Communications** oversees publications such as this magazine, as well as our website and social media.

Over the coming months we will also be launching a new and vibrant website with a much simpler and easier-to-remember address: cnmparish.gov.uk. The current website — catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk — will continue to work, but the new site should be live by the summer.

The shorter address will also apply to email. For example, instead of emailing me at b.laniosh@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk, you will be able to use the much simpler b.laniosh@cnmparish.gov.uk. Messages sent to the existing addresses will continue to be redirected to ensure nothing is missed.

Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council meets at **7pm on the last Thursday of each month** for the Full Parish Council meeting (excluding August and December). All meetings are open to the public and we are always pleased to see residents attend. Each meeting includes an **Open Forum** session where parishioners can raise comments, ideas or concerns, and we very much welcome your participation.

Cllr Brett Laniosh

Chairman, Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council

Catshill Fireworks Display

AFTER a damp and overcast day of preparations, the skies finally cleared just in time for the annual Catshill Fireworks Display on Saturday 1st November. By 5pm, visitors were making their way through the gates of Lingfield Park for the second year at this popular new venue.



The Ginger Gentleman

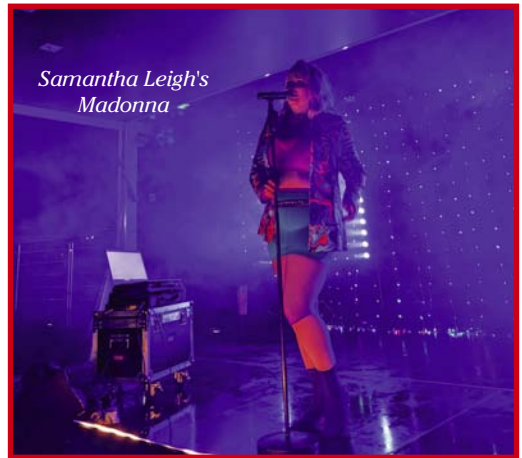


Betty's Waffles

A large and enthusiastic crowd gathered to enjoy another outstanding show from **G. Force Fireworks**. Host **Paul Masters** kept the evening flowing, introducing performances from two talented singers: **The Ginger Gentleman**, with his crowd-pleasing pop classics, and **Samantha Leigh**, who delivered one set as Madonna and another as herself. With **Kris Bailey** managing the sound and music, the build-up to the main display was smooth and lively.

When the fireworks began, the audience was treated to more than twenty minutes of high-quality pyrotechnics that lit up the night sky. A variety of food vendors added to the exciting atmosphere, ensuring no one went hungry.

This event takes months of planning, and we extend our sincere thanks to the **6th Bromsgrove Scouts** for their tireless work in delivering a safe, well-organised evening.



Samantha Leigh's Madonna



The Fireworks

invaluable. We also thank **Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council** for their continued sponsorship, along with everyone who supported or assisted in making the display another community success.

OUR community once again gathered on Remembrance Sunday for a dignified act of remembrance at the village war memorial. The morning began with a



We Will Remember Them

multi-denominational 10:00 am service at the **Catshill Social Club**, followed by a parade that was led by the drum band of the **2nd Bromsgrove Boys' Brigade**, who were joined by the **6th Bromsgrove Scouts** and **local councillors**.

The parade ended at the memorial, where another short service at 10:45 am was conducted by **Rev. Simon Gudger**. This

included a two-minute silence and the laying of wreaths. Local schoolchildren read the names of the fallen from both world wars as listed on the monument. Once again, music was provided by the **Blackwell Concert Band**, and BB Officer Paul Hatton played the Last Post.

This event continues to draw large crowds, with road closures ensuring everyone's safety. Grateful thanks go to **Catshill Churches Together**, **The Scouts**, **Catshill Social Club**, **Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council**, the **Boys' Brigade**, and **Roj Smith** for providing the PA system.

Why not Join us this November for the 2026 act of remembrance?



*The Blackwell
Concert Band*



Crowds gather at the War Memorial

Here are this year's major events organised by the parish council for the whole community to enjoy...

Friday 3rd April

EASTER TRAIL

*The annual eggciting
fun trail around
the village.*



Sunday 19th July

PICNIC in the Park

*Summer fun on the
Meadow*



**Saturday 12th
September**

HAYFEST

*Watch out
for the
scarecrows!*



**Sunday 8th
November**

REMEMBRANCE

*The annual services in
Catshill Club and the
War Memorial*



Saturday 21st November

Christmas Lights Switch On

*Festive fun and entertainment with the colourful
Christmas tree and Exciting new venue!*





DID you correctly identify the Where in the Parish photo from page 7 of our last edition?

Answer: It was the lamp that illuminates the War Memorial in Catshill.

You may have noticed that the War Memorial now glows red during the remembrance period, switches to multi-coloured lights over

Christmas, and then returns to white for the rest of the year.

Now let's see how you get on with this edition's challenge. Where in the parish will you find this little piece of architectural design?



Christmas Lights Switch-on

WITH more festive lights on the lampposts than ever, a beautifully decorated tree and the Village Hall colourfully illuminated, **Catshill Community Events'** Christmas lights switch-on.

Stalls, music, and plenty of festive food kept the celebrations buzzing, making it another warm and lively evening for all.

This year, the illuminations will extend into Braces Lane, Marlbrook, bringing even more brightness to the season.



Stalls in the Village Hall



Food Vendors Outside

Cover Photograph

Photo by: Paul Masters

A vibrant display of daffodils brightens Golden Cross Lane, offering a cheerful hint of the spring and summer months ahead.

If you've captured a photograph taken within the parish that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you.

Other Events Open to Everyone

MANY of the major events within the parish are organised by Catshill Community Events which are organised by the parish council. However, there are many other events that will be happening throughout the year organised by others. Here is a list of some of them: -

Catshill Baptist Church

Good Friday Reflection 7.30pm on 3rd April.

Easter Sunday Communion followed by breakfast 8.30am, then 10.30am

All age Easter Celebration on 5th April.

Catshill Methodist Church

Easter experience session, 3pm on 22nd March (open to all).

Maundy Thursday service at 7pm on 2nd April.

Good Friday service at 2.30pm on 3rd April.

Easter Sunday service at 10.30am on 5th April.

Christian Aid coffee morning & plant sale on Saturday 16th May
10am till noon.

Christ Church

Good Friday 'Hour on the cross' 2pm till 3pm 3rd April.

Easter Sunday, Communion service at 10am on 5th April.

Catshill Meadow

Car Boot sales will be held on the Meadows on the following dates
(*weather permitting*): -

Easter Monday 6th April.

Early May Bank Holiday 4th May.

Spring Bank Holiday 25th May.

August Bank Holiday 31 August.

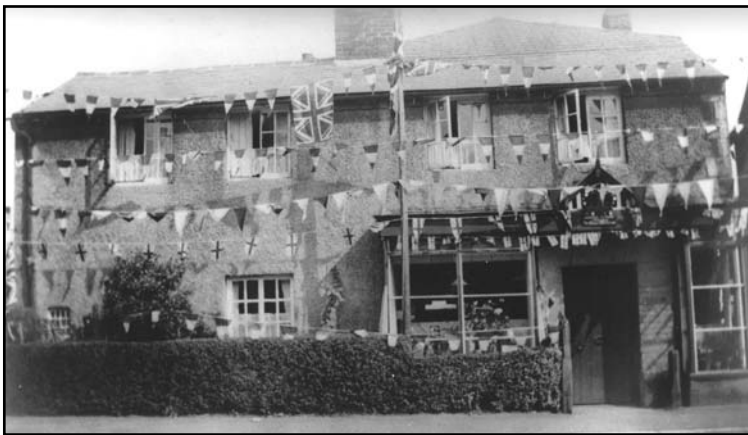
Police drop-in meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at the Pavilion in the Meadows between 11am and noon.

Welcome Hall Evangelical Church

Easter Sunday service 10:30am on 5th April
(Followed by coffee and cake).

Family Fun Event 11:30am till 1:30pm on Saturday 4th July.
Entrance free, with lunch provided.

MANY of you will know that our parish once had numerous small shops dotted around its lanes - particularly in Catshill. These local stores were often little more than the front room of a small house or cottage, yet they played an important role in daily village life.



This month, my thanks go to Mr. Keith Orgill, who has kindly provided two photographs of 252 Stourbridge Road, Catshill. We believe these images date from 1935, clearly showing that the property - which still stands today - once operated as a general store. In the photographs, the store is decorated with bunting to celebrate King George V's Silver Jubilee, giving a wonderful glimpse into the community spirit of the time.

Keith received the photographs from the previous owner when he moved into the property in 2011, but no further information was given about the shop's name or the people who ran it.

Although the building has been extended over the years, its frontage



remains remarkably similar to how it appeared in 1935, except for some changes to the window layout each side of the door.

We would love to uncover more of the story behind this little shop.

Do you know what it was called? Do you remember who owned or ran it?

If you have any information about this store, or any old photographs of the parish that

you would be willing to share, then please get in touch.

Cllr. Paul Masters p.masters@cnmparish.gov.uk

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a dog festival in a park. At the top, a purple banner with yellow text reads 'Catshill's'. Below it, a beagle and a German Shepherd are shown with their mouths open, appearing to splash water. The main title 'PAWS in the PARK' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'PAWS' in large, orange, 3D letters and 'in the PARK' in smaller, green, 3D letters, all set against a wooden log background. The scene is filled with colorful flowers, green trees, and festival tents in the background. A banner at the bottom of the main title area reads 'A FUN DOG FESTIVAL CELEBRATING EVERYTHING DOG! THE MEADOW CATSHILL B61 OJJ'. In the lower section, a black and white dog is running on the left, and a young boy in a blue shirt and green shorts is running on the right. A sign on the left says 'DOG SHOWS' and a sign on the right says 'DOG STALLS, FOOD, DRINKS & CRAFT STALLS'. At the bottom, a wooden sign displays the date and time: '15th August 2026 11am - 4pm', and a final banner at the very bottom says 'FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY'.

Catshill's

PAWS
in the
PARK

A FUN DOG FESTIVAL CELEBRATING EVERYTHING DOG!
THE MEADOW CATSHILL B61 OJJ

**DOG
SHOWS**

15th August 2026
11am - 4pm

**DOG STALLS,
FOOD, DRINKS
& CRAFT STALLS**

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

EMERGENCY DOG WASTE BAG CHANGES

Massive 60% Savings Expected

Scoopit-Do Says:



CATSHILL Parish Council has long provided free emergency dog-litter bags to help keep the village clean, supported tirelessly by volunteer Jose Lewis. But with demand soaring far beyond intended use—and some dispensers reportedly emptied within hours—the scheme has become unsustainable. Last year alone, over 8,000 bags were used every six weeks, costing the Council more than £3,500!

Despite this investment, dog fouling in parks and play areas has increased.

To tackle both the rising costs and the growing mess, the Council is retiring the current scheme in May and introducing a new community-led approach.

The Catshill Scouts will help create and refill recycled pop-bottle dispensers using lower-cost bags, aiming to cut expenses by 60%. Local schools are also joining the new P.U.P. (Pick Up Poo) campaign, producing posters to remind dog owners of their legal responsibility to clean up after their pets—no excuses.

With more residents heading outdoors as the weather improves, the Council hopes this refreshed effort will encourage responsible dog ownership and restore pride in shared spaces. Social media updates will follow as the campaign rolls out.

A big thank-you goes to the Scouts and local schools for helping drive this important community initiative forward.

The Christmas Experience



Children listen intently to a Shepherd.

JUST before Christmas, Catshill Methodist Church once again welcomed more than 360 visitors - most of them children - for this year's Christmas Experience.

Across four busy days, an incredible team brought the nativity story to life: one dedicated Innkeeper, three wonderful Wise Men, three superb Shepherds, two amazing Marys, two brilliant narrators, an excellent sound technician,

and a group of friendly guides, greeters, and tea makers. Their combined efforts made the event a tremendous success.

Young visitors were led through a series of scenes from the Christmas story, where they listened, learned, and had the chance to ask questions about the birth of Jesus. The atmosphere was full of curiosity, excitement, and festive spirit, exactly what the season is all about.



Just some of the volunteers.

Catshill Community Christmas Lunch

FRIDAY 19th December brought food, drinks, entertainment, and plenty of companionship to Catshill, as the Village Hall opened its doors for the annual Community Christmas Lunch. The event welcomed many residents who might otherwise have spent Christmas alone, offering a festive afternoon filled with warmth and good company.

Entry was free, with the celebrations running from 12:30 pm until 4 pm. Thanks go to the dedicated volunteers who once again helped **Catshill Community Events** create a truly special occasion.

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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