

NEWS MAGAZINE

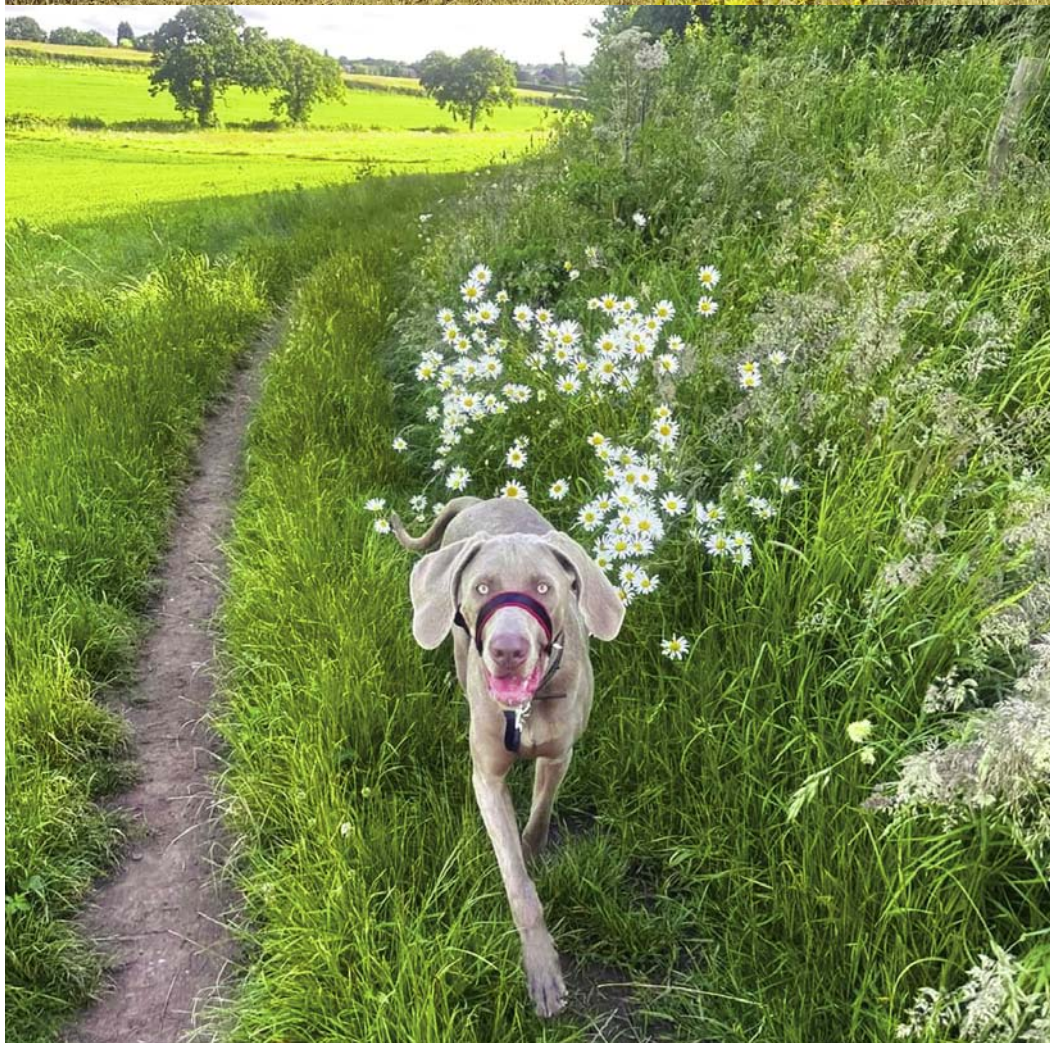


SUMMER 2024

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbroom-pc.gov.uk



EVER THOUGHT OF BEING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

- See page 5 -

Litter Pickers – Thank You!



WE are lucky to have so many volunteers that help keep our community litter picked. You may have seen on social media how various young people are litter picking our parish as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award, and we would like to thank them all.

Please be aware that the Parish Council employs a litter picker, and if you feel that an area within the parish is in need of special attention then please just contact the Clerk.

Along with the parish litter picker we are also aware that Mr. Geoff Nokes regularly litter picks within the parish and Mr. Peter Yarrington litter picks some of the fields that are adjacent to the parish. There may be others that we are unaware of that regularly litter pick, so once again, we thank you all.

If you wish to litter pick, be aware that you can register with Bromsgrove District Council.

The map shows the areas that litter pickers regularly cover:

Where in the Parish?



HERE is this edition's *where in the parish* photo challenge.

Do you know where/what this is?

We'll post the answer on our Facebook page once all copies of this news magazine have been delivered. We'll also print the answer in our winter 2024 edition for you.

Did you get the answer to our last where in the parish? - It was the cross on top of the Baptist church!

Cllr. Paul Masters.



WELCOME to the Summer 2024 edition of our parish magazine.

As I write my message we are witnessing the appointment of a new government. A change of government is always an important moment in the life of our country, but the change of government from a political party which has been in power for 14 years is a truly historic event. Whatever your political views I think it is important to wish this new government well. If they are successful, then we will all reap the benefits of that success.

Since we published our Spring 2024 magazine, I am pleased to announce that we have coopted two new parish councillors onto the parish council. At our Full Parish Council meeting on the 25th of April, we coopted local resident Becky Pagett. Tess Gillespie was co-opted at our AGM on the 21st of May. Tess has previously been a member of the parish council and we welcome her back. We still have vacancies on the parish council and would welcome expressions of interest to the Parish Clerk, from any local residents who would like to join us.

We held the AGM of the Parish Council on the 21st of May and I was honoured to have been re-elected chair of the Parish Council for another year. Councillor Brett Lanoish was re-elected vice chair.

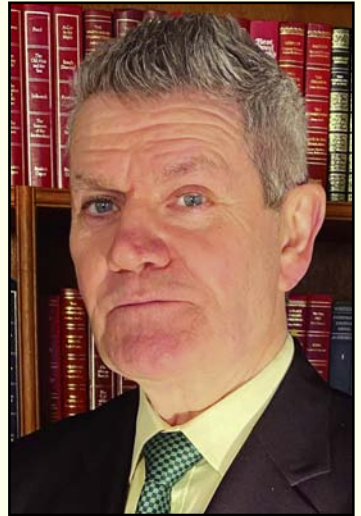
The Parish Council has recently placed an order for three 'Chatty Benches' and we have also agreed the locations for these benches, which we hope will be well received by the local community.

We have confirmed that the local Scout Group will again be responsible for organising the village Bonfire & Fireworks event later this year. They are proposing to move the location of the event from the Meadow to the larger park area at Lingfield Walk. They are working with numerous organisations, including Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire Regulatory Services, to finalise arrangements for this year's event, which will continue to be underwritten by the Parish Council.

We have recently approved the following grant application:

A grant for £840 to Catshill village hall to fund their very popular Youth Games Hub, to cover the cost of room hire, purchasing food and undertaking DBS checks on volunteers etc.

Councillor Bernard McEldowney (Chair)



Catshill Village Hall 131st Birthday Party

ON Saturday June 8th Catshill Village Hall held its 131st birthday party where everyone was invited to enjoy entertainment and food – all free of charge!

The fun ran from 4pm until 8pm, with the large crowd, especially the children enjoying an exciting time. There was lots going on, with a bouncy castle and “fair ground” type games outside along with free burgers and hot dogs, singers, disco music, face painting and Spiderman and Elsa (from Frozen) constantly available for photographs inside. Cllr. Shirley Webb was invited to cut the large birthday cake.

This hugely successful event was heavily sponsored by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council.

Last year when the hall was 130 years old, it had financial difficulties and was not able to celebrate, but this year, with bookings up, the future of the hall appears more secure – and that’s worth celebrating!



A great turnout.



*Helen Pearson
and Pete
Harrington.*



*Outside
Games*



*Zara & Ella met
Elsa & Spiderman.*



*Cllr. Shirley Webb
cuts the special
Birthday cake.*

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE PARISH COUNCIL?

BEING a councillor is all about giving back to your community by bringing your energy, passion, and positive attitude. You can make a real difference to the local community and wider society in many ways as a councillor. For example, you could be representing the views of local people to ensure the community gets the right services, supporting a resident with an issue, or helping to shape the community by driving new ideas.

Catshill and Marlbrook Parish Councillors would welcome those who may be interested to get in touch to find out more. We asked the current councillors (Jess Parry, Bernard McEldowney, Paul Masters, Sami Osman, Karl Burgess and Brett Laniosh) about being a councillor and here are their responses.

If you would like to find out more contact Carol Blake, our Parish Clerk.

What Do You Like Most About Living In The Area?

KB: I like the closeness of the community and the low crime rate. It's a great place to raise children – the parents of the local school all know each other.

BM: The parish area is a pleasant place to reside in. The quality of housing overall is generally good, and it is a relatively safe place to live. Nearby access to two motorways and the countryside, is a bonus.

PM: I think this parish is a wonderful place to live with its strong sense of community where neighbours help each other.

BL: It's close to plenty of green spaces, has a friendly community with generally good transport links and access to shops and services. It's great that people in the village say hello when you pass them on the street.

JP: I love living in the village for its community, warm and friendly feel and that I know so many people. My children are happy here which makes me happy.



What Made You Want To Become A Parish Councillor?



BM: A friend encouraged me to join the parish council, partly so that I would gain some experience as to how councils operate, and to make me a more competent candidate to be either a district or county councillor, at some point in the future. I decided to give it a go, and ten years later, I am still on the parish council. I very much see my parish councillor role as an extension of my public service as a police officer for 30 years.

SO: I wanted to have a positive impact on the area.

JP: I became a Parish Councillor to help more and make a difference. I want to ensure it's a lovely place for my children to grow up in.

PM: I wanted to be a parish councillor so that I could help protect all that is good in our area and also help improve things where needed.

KB: My wife is a community builder and introduced me to the parish council. I wanted to help keep it alive by doing my bit.

What Do You Most Enjoy About The Role?

SO: For me it is helping direct funds into youth activities.

BM: I like the opportunity of participating at meetings and other forums. It helps keep my brain active and every day you learn new things. I like being in a position to help make things happen. Sometimes councils can spend a lot of time discussing what they should do. I prefer to focus on making things happen.

KB: I enjoy meeting the junior councillors and hearing what they have to say about improving things in Catshill and North Marlbrook.



BL: It is great seeing practical suggestions that benefit the village come to fruition.

Why Should Someone Become A Councillor?



PM: My advice to someone thinking about becoming a parish councillor is to let us know, and attend a few meetings without any obligation, then make a decision.

JP: You can help make the area better, to maintain standards and to try and make a difference.

BM: Parish councillors are local volunteers, who are focussed on improving the quality of life for parish residents. Being a parish councillor gives us the ability to influence decision makers, who can facilitate us progressing local objectives. I believe there are many local residents who have fantastic ideas of what improvements can be made to our parish area, but they

are not in a position to progress these ideas/objectives on their own. Rather than these people simply contact the Parish Council and suggest we progress these ideas/objectives, I would encourage them to join the parish council and they could drive those particular ideas/objectives themselves.

BL: We are a very friendly group and you can make a real difference to make Catshill and North Marlbrook a better place to live.

SO: It is a great way to be involved in the community and bringing your own ideas to the table.

What Tips Would You Give To Someone Thinking About Becoming A Councillor?

JP: Attend a few meetings to see what it's all about

KB: It's a nice way to help improve the area. Your views will be listened to and we are a great team to work with.

SO: Come to a meeting, even for just 30minutes!

BL: Just do it! Come along to a meeting and have a chat to one of the other councillors. The time commitment needn't be onerous and you can focus on getting involved with the things that matter to you.

PM: Knowing and loving the area helps people become a good parish councillor, but if you are a newcomer, don't feel excluded! We need your ideas.

What Do You Think Makes A Good Councillor?

SO: Someone who wants to make positive change

JP: To have a good fair manner, be a good listener and a team player.

BL: Someone who listens to and respects the views of others and has the interests of the community at heart.

BM: We all have individual talents, and when we work together we can make things happen. Coming to the 'table' with a positive attitude and a desire to make positive things happen, is 'Good'.

KB: Not being afraid to express your views and standing by your opinion.



What Would You Say If They Said They Don't Have Time To Become A Councillor?

JP: Being a Parish Councillor can take as little or as much time as you want.

BL: Have a chat with one of us. It's definitely possible to balance a busy lifestyle with being a councillor.

BM: We need to stress to people, that we understand that different people will provide different commitments to the parish council. Many younger parish

councillors will have a full/part-time job, family commitments etc., so they obviously will have less time to provide to the PC, than retired people like me. However, it is important that the PC is diverse, and that we attract a wide range of people who are truly representative of the local community. The main minimum commitment would be to try and attend the monthly full parish council meeting.

PM: The more councillors we have, the less work there is for each individual. Don't take on too much and play to your strengths.

Thinking About Your Work On The Parish Council...

What Was Your Highlight Of 2023?

KB: The Christmas Lights switch on and welcoming Santa to Catshill! I enjoyed the Easter event and meeting our parishioners.



PM: My Highlights from 2023 would be the continued success of the news magazine and all amazing community events that the Parish council has helped with.

JP: My favourite point of last year was the success of the Halloween event.

BL: Seeing locals and visitors making use of the footpaths we've improved and working with the Junior Councillors.

BM: My main highlight of the year, was getting elected to the District Council. My previous experience of being a parish councillor for 10 years, enhanced my local profile.

SO: The success of bonfire night!

What Do You Think Are The Priorities For The Coming Year?

BM: The Covid Memorial. Install 'Chatty Benches'. Recruiting more parish councillors. Focusing on reducing litter and dog waste. Continuation of Junior Councillors initiative. Additional youth provision in the area. Improve the "entrances" to the village. Signage and tidying up the roads leading into the village/parish has been talked about but not much has been done. The mess at the top of Golden Cross Lane needs sorting and "*you are entering Catshill/Marlbrook, please drive carefully*" signs would be good at the other main roads leading in.

BL: Dealing with the litter and dog waste problems we have and encouraging others to become active in the community to help their wellbeing and health generally.

SO: To increase spending/provision for youth in Catshill.

KB: Events that involve as many members of the community as possible and outreach opportunities to get young people involved. I want to ban boredom!



R.Portman		D.Stephens		M.Weaver		S.Giles		C.Poyner		Mr J.Rowlands	
N.Rumley		P.Masters		M.Walker		I.Prust				I.Reeves	
M.Troth		C.Shaw		S.Jones		R.Price		F.Garner		A.Kings	
								P.Shaw		S.Fitzer	
										R.Marsh	

ALTHOUGH I have featured photographs of the 1st Bromsgrove Boys' Brigade band in previous editions, I think this one is especially poignant as all individuals are named. The band, so well known to all in Catshill for their lively monthly Sunday morning parades around the village throughout the 1970s and 1980s started to compete in the Worcestershire Battalion Band competition in the early 1970s. In their first three years of entering, they went from third to second to first place. This photograph was taken inside Catshill Methodist Church shortly after they had won the Battalion band competition for the first time, and must date from around 1974/5.

My thanks go to Mrs. S Walker for supplying this excellent photograph.

Remember if you have a photograph that you would like featured in From Our Past, then please email me at p.masters@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Cover Photograph

ALFIE the dog enjoys the arrival of summer 2024 in the local fields.

Photo: Mrs. S Webb.

Spring Bank Holiday Car Boot



WE had a rather wet start to the year, but thankfully the rain held off for the Car Boot sale held on the Meadow on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 27th May.

Such events are always worth attending as they help fund the Meadow. You can also pick up a few bargains; enjoy the company, the fresh air and some refreshments!



Chatty Benches – Update

AS mentioned in our *From the Chair* report, the Parish Council has placed an order for three Chatty Benches, and we have also agreed the locations for them. **We will tell you more about it in our next edition!** But perhaps now is a good time to remind you of what Chatty Benches are...

Chatty benches are designed to combat loneliness and foster connections among people. We intend to install our Chatty Benches in both Catshill and North Marlbrook. The idea is simple; the benches will be installed in public spaces, and will have plaques inviting passers-by to sit down and chat with others. Basically, if you sit on one of these benches, it means you are open to having a conversation with other people who may join you.

England Matches on TV at Catshill Village Hall



WE have already mentioned the amazing *Catshill Village Hall* birthday party and how the facility is going from strength to strength. Another recent success at CVH has been the screening of several Euro 2024 matches featuring England. A large screen was used in the hall, allowing all the live action to be enjoyed in a family friendly environment. Food was also served from the kitchen hatch along with tea coffee and cans of pop.

This excellent idea proved popular, and those that turned up certainly had something to shout about!



YOUR parish council was proud to support Catshill's Chadsgrove College with a £1500 grant to help establish a sensory garden featuring raised beds making the garden wheelchair- friendly. The college which works with students aged 19 to 25, who have special educational needs arising from physical disabilities and complex health needs, will be growing fresh produce that will be donated to their own Cozy Café and to the Catshill Food Bank.



Catshill Footpath Work Party



THE Catshill Footpath Work Party meet at 10 am on the third Tuesday of every month to carry out tasks to improve Public rights of way, such as way-marking, vegetation removal and basic repairs.

The work can be unsupervised or supervised by Worcestershire County Council public rights of way officers, depending on the nature of

the work. It is a great as well as a fun way to get out in the fresh air and get some exercise, so please get in touch if you would be interested in joining this volunteer group.

The Work Party work with local volunteer footpath wardens and carry out activities in the parishes of Catshill and North Marlbrook, Lickey and Blackwell and Bournheath.

Pictured are some of the activities the group have carried out.

Find out more at:

www.walks.catshill.com/footpath-work-party

Email: b.laniosh@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk



D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration

ON Sunday 9th June there was a very short service held at the War memorial to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings, known as D-Day. Wreaths were laid by many organisations including your parish council.

Please be aware that there will be the usual Remembrance services in November, and we will publish more details of these in the autumn edition of this news magazine along with posts on social media.



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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