

NEWS MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2026

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

SUMMER FUN

SEE PAGE 8



2 *New Nature Walk Taking Shape at Lingfield Park*

WORK has begun on the long-awaited nature walk at Lingfield Park in Catshill. The site, owned by Bromsgrove District Council, had become heavily overgrown in recent years, with the original path disappearing beneath dense vegetation.



Before and during the path clearance work, qualified council staff carried out inspections to ensure local wildlife was protected and not disturbed. The project has now created an attractive, gently winding pathway that is accessible to all.

Plans are in place to further enhance the walk for both people and wildlife. Proposed improvements include information boards highlighting local plants and animals, bird and bat boxes, wildflower planting, seating, and a decorative entrance feature.

Grant funding has been applied for to help support these developments, and the outcome is awaited. Looking ahead, a team of local volunteers will be needed to help manage and care for this valuable community space, which we are delighted to note is already being used.

Anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to get in touch.

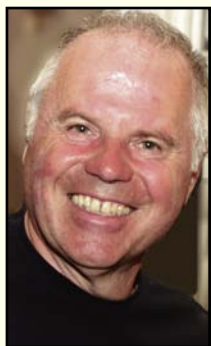
Ivy Gardens Receive a Fresh New Look

THE Ivy Gardens has recently benefited from several improvements designed to enhance this attractive community space. Alongside updated planting arrangements that are both more visually appealing and cost-effective, two small planters have been installed beneath the notice boards.

The sleepers that form the raised bed have also been freshly painted, helping to brighten the area, while the well-used bench has received a much needed repaint.



We hope residents and visitors enjoy these enhancements, which help keep Ivy Gardens a welcoming and attractive feature of our community.



WELCOME to the Summer edition of the Parish Magazine, delivered to every home in Catshill and North Marlbrook.

Since the last edition, we held our Annual Parish Meeting in May at the Village Hall, where around 20 residents joined councillors and representatives from local organisations to hear about the work being carried out across our parish.

During my annual report, I highlighted a number of improvements to the way we communicate with residents, including the launch of our new website and new council email addresses. I also reflected on the many projects completed over the past year by our working groups, sharing some of their achievements through photographs, before outlining the Parish Council's priorities and

strategic vision for the year ahead.

One of the most rewarding parts of the evening was hearing from several local charities and community groups that have received support from the Parish Council. We welcomed presentations from the Baptist Church White Goods and Home Essentials Scheme, Citizens Advice, Catshill Village Meadow and the North Bromsgrove Footpath Group. Each spoke passionately about the difference their work is making to local people, while also highlighting the challenges that many individuals and families continue to face.

We were also pleased to receive updates from Worcestershire County Councillor Mark Dunkley and our Bromsgrove District Councillors. Topics included the proposed local government reorganisation, the rollout of the new refuse collection service, the £1.2 million Community Fund, road resurfacing, speeding, parking and other local traffic concerns.

Residents attending the meeting spoke warmly about the parish planters and the enjoyment they bring to the village, particularly for local schoolchildren who help to care for them. The excellent work of the North Bromsgrove Footpath Group in keeping our footpaths clear and accessible was also recognised, and a further appeal was made for volunteers to support the Lingfield Walk wildlife project.

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to visit our new website at cnmparish.gov.uk, where you can find details of council meetings, current councillors, local projects and much more.

The Parish Council meets at 7.30 pm on the last Thursday of each month (excluding August and December). Meetings are now held at Catshill Baptist Church, Milton Road, Catshill, and everyone is welcome to attend. Each meeting includes an Open Forum, giving residents the opportunity to raise ideas, concerns or questions directly with councillors.

Finally, I'd like to encourage anyone who has a little spare time to consider volunteering within our community. Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet new people, develop new skills, build confidence and make a genuine difference to where you live. There are many opportunities to get involved across the parish, several of which are featured in this magazine.

If you would like to find out more, please contact our Parish Clerk, Jess Mathews, at clerk@cnmparish.gov.uk or on **07813 671899**.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the magazine.

Cllr Brett Laniosh *Chairman, Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council*

Summer Coffee Concert



CATSHILL Methodist Church Centre once again hosted a **David Morgan Music Trust** informal concert on Saturday, 27th June. Held during the church's regular coffee morning and free to attend, the event attracted a large and supportive audience.

Young performers impressed listeners with their confidence and skill, presenting a varied programme on recorder, piano, violin and clarinet. Their enthusiasm and musical talent made the morning a great success.

This annual event was part of the Bromsgrove Festival.

Players Platform

MEMBERS of the **Bromsgrove Amateur String Orchestra**, who rehearse on Saturday mornings at the Catshill Methodist Church Centre, delighted audiences with their annual **Summer Coffee Concert** on **Saturday 4 July**. The free event featured a varied programme of classical music, providing an enjoyable morning of entertainment that was warmly appreciated by all who attended.



Easter Trail Brings Community Together

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THIS year's Easter Trail saw another excellent turnout, with families enjoying a fun-filled route starting at **Christ Church**, then the **Village Hall**, the **Baptist Church**, the **Methodist church**, the **Welcome Hall**, then ending at the **Scout Hut**.

Children collected letters at each stop to uncover a secret word and took part in fun activities along the way.

The event finished with food and Easter treats being provided. The Easter Bunny and Rumi from *K-Pop Demon Hunters* helped make the day extra special.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, venues and families whose support made this community event such a success. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.



Catshill and North Marlbrook Community Events 2026



Saturday 12th September

HAYFEST

Watch out for the scarecrows!



Saturday 31st October

(Gates open 5:30 - Fireworks at 7:15)

FIREWORKS

- * Please note the new start times: Gates open at 5:30pm, Fireworks at 7:15pm.
- * We are aware that it will also be Halloween, so join us after your Trick or Treating!
- * Please walk to Lingfield Park if you can. However, there will be car parks available at the Welcome Hall, Catshill Methodist Church, Catshill Baptist Church and Catshill First School. Avoid street parking if you can - be considerate.
- * Strictly no personal fireworks are allowed (this includes sparklers).
- * We encourage you to pay by card at the gate if possible, though cash will still be accepted.



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 get the answer to our spring edition “Where in the Parish” challenge?

It was one of the decorative roses that are carved into the stone wall of the Co-Op, above the cash machine.

So onto this edition’s mystery: can you identify this curious creature and where it lives in our parish? I’ll reveal the answer on our Facebook page in a few weeks, and in the next issue of this magazine.

Cllr Paul Masters



New Meters Help Cut Costs

AS part of ongoing efforts to reduce running costs, new electricity and water meters have recently been installed.



Engineer fits a new meter

The energy-efficient lamp that illuminates the War Memorial is already controlled by a timer that is adjusted throughout the year to ensure it operates as efficiently as possible. With the installation of a new electricity meter and a move to a more cost-effective tariff, further savings are expected.

A new water meter has also been fitted to monitor water usage in the Ivy Garden, helping to keep a closer eye on consumption.

Together, these upgrades will help improve efficiency and keep costs down for the future.

Cover Photograph

SUMMER is in full bloom across the parish, with gardens, raised beds and planters adding vibrant colours. This month’s cover features the newly planted **Ivy Garden**, which has been enhanced with perennial shrubs at its centre and seasonal bedding plants around the perimeter.

Also pictured here is **Jose Lewis**, helping to keep the Ivy Garden looking its best by ensuring the new plants are well watered during the warm weather.

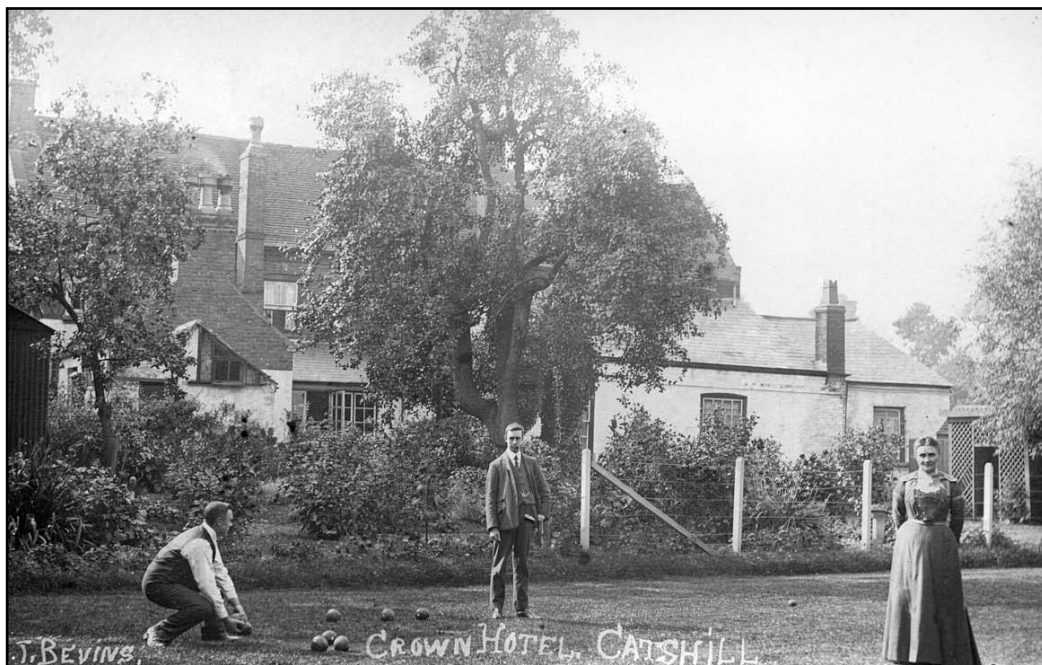


Jose Lewis waters the Ivy Garden

A banner with a yellow background and blue wavy patterns. The text "SUMMER FUN" is in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline. Below it, "PICNIC IN THE PARK" is in smaller, bold, blue letters with a white outline.

SUNSHINE, smiles and plenty of picnic treats made the first-ever **Picnic in the Park** a memorable occasion for all who attended. Held on the Meadow on 19th July and organised by the Parish Council's **Catshill and North Marlbrook's Community Events** team, it brought the community together for an afternoon of food, fun and family entertainment. Judging by its popularity, this inaugural gathering looks set to become a much-loved annual tradition. Here are some highlights from a wonderful summer day.





A remarkable early 20th-century postcard has surfaced, which I am delighted to share with you. It offers a rare view of the **bowling green** that was situated behind the **Crown Inn** (formerly known as the **Crown Hotel**) by the War memorial. This area is now the site of the pub's beer garden and children's play area.

All we know for certain is that it was taken by a **J. Bevins** but based on the suggested cost of postage required (printed on the back) along with the clothing worn by the three unidentified people pictured, we suspect that it was taken in the very early 1900s, certainly prior to WWI.

Many of you will remember the Crown's bowling green, which remained in use until the early 1980s, making this photograph a fascinating link between the village's Edwardian past and more recent memories.

If you recognise any of the people in the photograph, or if you have any old photographs that you'd like to share, then please contact me.

p.masters@cnmparish.gov.uk.

APOLOGY:

The article in our Spring 2026 News Magazine referring to the last year's Annual Christmas Lunch, inadvertently omitted to say that the organisers included:

BUSHAR (Bromsgrove Ukrainian Support, Help, and Relief)
and **CVH (Catshill Village Hall).**

Sincere apologies for this error.



Become a Catshill & North Marlbrook Volunteer Litter Picker

For more details email
clerk@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 boy is running towards the right, and a dog is running towards the left. A sign on the right lists 'DOG STALLS, FOOD, DRINKS & CRAFT STALLS'. At the bottom, a wooden sign gives the date and time, and another banner says 'FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY'.

Catshill's

PAWS
in the
PARK

A FUN DOG FESTIVAL CELEBRATING EVERYTHING DOG!
THE MEADOW CATSHILL B61 0JJ

**DOG
SHOWS**

15th August 2026
11am - 4pm

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

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

New Marlbrook Sign Installed

CATSHILL & North Marlbrook Parish Council is pleased to announce the installation of a new Marlbrook welcome sign beside the Jubilee Gardens at the bottom of Braces Lane, opposite the Esso petrol station.



New Marlbrook sign location



Representatives from Mission Create install the sign

For many years, visitors to Catshill have been welcomed by attractive village signs, and the Parish Council wanted to create a similar feature for Marlbrook. Working with Mission Create Limited, a specialist sign-making company, the Council has now installed a sign that provides a clear sense of place and identity for the community.

The Parish Council hopes it will become a well-recognised feature of the area for years to come.

Please note our new address:

CNM Parish, PO Box 18931, Redditch. B97 9AP

**Or you can contact us at: clerk@cnmparish.gov.uk
or by phone on: 07813 671899.**

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

Jessica Mathews, Clerk to the Council,
CNM Parish, PO Box 18931
Redditch. B97 9AP

Tel: **07813 671899**

e-mail: clerk@cnmparish.gov.uk

www.cnmparish.gov.uk



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