

NEWS MAGAZINE



AUTUMN 2024

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk



Chatty Benches
Have Arrived

**CATSHILL COMMUNITY EVENTS
PRESENTS**

*Christmas Market &
Light Switch On*

2024

*Saturday 23rd November 2024
3pm until 6pm*

Chadsgrove School Choir

Stars Dance

Catshill Methodist Choir

FairField First School Choir

Catshill Baptist Band

A Visit from Santa

Door Step Princesses

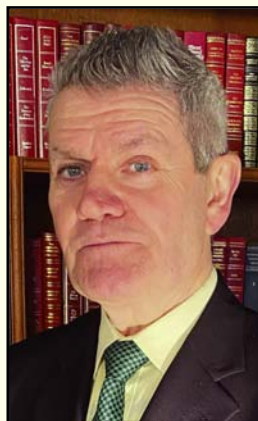
Catshill Federation Schools

CATSHILL

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

WELCOME to the autumn 2024 edition of our parish News magazine.

In the spring 2024 magazine, I mentioned that a grant application I had submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner's 'Safer Roads Fund', to purchase two VAS (Vehicle Activated & Safety) signs, had been successful and that we had been awarded £5380. I am pleased to report that we have now purchased the signs. One has been positioned on the Stourbridge Road (opp. Willowbrook Garden Centre), for traffic travelling in the direction of Catshill. The second one has been positioned on the A38 Birmingham Road, near the Bromsgrove Hotel & Spa, for traffic travelling towards the M5. There are now 6 permanent VAS signs in the Parish area.



Also in the Spring edition I referred to a road traffic collision between two vehicles in February this year, which resulted in one of the vehicles crashing into the Catshill War Memorial railings, causing significant damage to the railings and knocking over an adjacent lamppost. Unfortunately, the insurance claim has taken longer to progress than we originally anticipated, so at our recent full parish council meeting we agreed to proceed with paying to have the railings replaced and other remedial work undertaken, so that the work can be completed in time for the forthcoming Remembrance Sunday service. The damaged lamppost has been replaced. We will still continue with the insurance claim.

I want to thank the deputy chair of the parish council, Councillor Brett Lanoish, for completing the final stages of our 'Chatty Benches' project - see page 6.

At our recent full parish council meeting we approved the following grants:

1) Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) – Bromsgrove - £1000

Many of our parish residents benefit from the valuable work of the CAB, which is provided free of charge. CAB rely on most of their funding from the local County, District and Parish Councils.

2) Catshill Baptist Church Food Bank – White Goods Scheme. - £5000

'White Goods' are essential appliances, like cookers, washing machines and fridges. The Scheme was created to help people and families in need, who are without these basic appliances, particularly in our parish area. The Scheme works with many referral agencies throughout the Bromsgrove Area, such as Age UK, St Basils, Pause, the Basement Project and BDHT, to support people, who have been homeless, escaping an abusive relationship, or with debilitating health problems and having low income. Many have moved into new accommodations with little or no home essential appliances. Help is also given if people are short of pots and pans, cooking utensils and bed linen.

As you can see in this magazine, the newly formed Catshill Community Events group is organising several forthcoming Halloween and Christmas events. Some of these events will be receiving financial support from the Parish Council.

Councillor Bernard McEldowney 29th September 2024.

Alley Resurfaced



THE parish has a number of highly used alley ways and footpaths, and one alley has just received extra attention, it's the one between Oak Road and Golden Cross Lane.

Over recent time this alley has had solar powered lighting added by the **Parish Council** helping to illuminate it, as its rather dark (especially in the winter months) due to its dog-legged shape and foliage, and now **Worcestershire County Council** has resurfaced it, making it even nicer to use. Also, **Bromsgrove District Council** has added a waste bin at it's entrance on Golden Cross Lane.

This is a perfect example of how all three tiers of local government can work hand in hand to improve our community.

Last Car Boot Sale of the Summer on the Meadow

IN our spring edition we featured a photograph of the first Car Boot sale of the year to be held on the Meadow, and in this edition, here is a photograph of the Meadow's final Car Boot sale of the summer, which was held on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August.

The Meadow (a registered charity) continues to be an important facility and asset to our community – please support it when you can.

Look out for **Catshill Village Meadow** on Facebook and their website at www.catshillvillagemeadow.co.uk for more information.



Where in the Parish?



WELCOME to our autumn *Where in the Parish* photo challenge.

Do you know where/what this is a photo of within the parish?

Once all editions of this magazine have been delivered, we will post the answer on our Facebook page and also in our spring 2025 News Magazine.

Well done if you successfully identified that our Summer edition *Where in the Parish* challenge was a photo of one of the ornamental roses above the village hall windows!



Cllr. Paul Masters



CATSHILL Games Hub recently won the Redditch & Bromsgrove Safer Community Heroes Award! It's all thanks to you guys coming along and making it such a positive, safe environment. Together, we're making a real difference.

So, if you're between 8 & 16 and you're looking for something fun to do every other Thursday, the Catshill Games Hub is where it's at. Whether you're a Gamer, someone who just wants to hang out with friends, or looking for a place to chill and grab a bite to eat.

Location: *Catshill Village Hall* - **Time:** *Every other Thursday evening*
Age range: *8-16* - **Price:** *Free (yes, really!), small charge for food.*

The 8th May 2025 will be the 80th anniversary of VE Day, a celebration of the moment in 1945 that marked the end of the Second World War in Europe. The Parish Council will be working with other local community groups and churches to arrange an event to mark this important anniversary.

BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PART OF THE UKRAINIAN
COMMUNITY OR
OVER 60 & ALONE?

JOIN US AT OUR
CHRISTMAS LUNCH PARTY
@ CVH CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL

EVENT IS PROVIDED BY BUSAR
AND SUPPORTED BY CVH AND
CATSHILL COMMUNITY EVENTS

SCAN CODE TO REGISTER
YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE

Friday 20th December 12:30pm onwards

JUST A BUNCH
OF
HOCUS
POCUS
HALLOWEEN
PARTY

31 OCTOBER, 2024 | 3:00 PM - 5PM
CVH - CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL

Door Step Princesses
Fangastic Food and Drinks
Games
Dancing
Sweets

Free Entry, Fancy Dress

If Busy will run half hourly slots

Chatty Benches Arrive

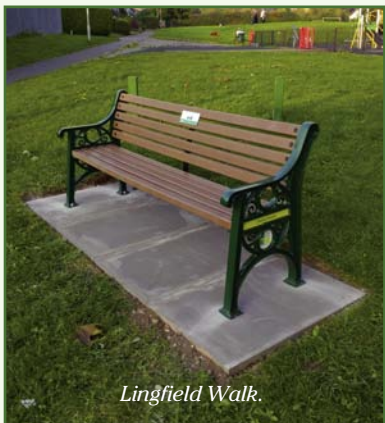
Happy to chat bench



Sit here if you are happy for somebody to stop and say hello

IN a bid to promote community well-being, **Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council** has installed three new *Chatty Benches* in the parish. These benches aim to reduce loneliness and isolation by offering a simple, inviting space where people can sit down, strike up a conversation, and stay connected.

The concept behind *Chatty Benches* is straightforward yet powerful: existing or newly installed benches are marked with signs indicating that those seated are open to chatting with others. This creates opportunities for spontaneous conversations, helping to break down barriers and foster a sense of belonging.



Lingfield Walk.

“We know that even a brief moment of connection can make a significant difference in reducing feelings of loneliness,” said Brett Laniosh, Vice-Chairman of **Catshill & Marlbrook Parish Council**. *“We hope these benches encourage people to say hello, engage in a quick chat, or share a kind word - whether it’s commenting on the weather or simply sharing a smile. For someone who is feeling isolated, this small act of kindness can have a lasting, positive impact.”*

The three *Chatty Benches* are located at **Marlbrook Recreation Ground, The Diamond Jubilee Garden** (corner of Braces Lane and the A38) and **Lingfield Walk**. These popular areas were specifically chosen to increase the likelihood of social interaction while ensuring a safe environment.

The three *Chatty Benches* are located at **Marlbrook Recreation Ground, The Diamond Jubilee Garden** (corner of Braces Lane and the A38) and **Lingfield Walk**. These popular areas were specifically chosen to increase the likelihood of social interaction while ensuring a safe environment.

If these benches prove popular, we would welcome suggestions from residents about additional locations where more *Chatty Benches* could be installed. We’re excited to see how they will help bring our community even closer together.



Marlbrook Recreation Ground.



Diamond Jubilee Garden.

Sunday BBQ Service

SUNDAY 18th August was indeed a sunny day, and it saw Catshill Methodist Church hold its morning worship, along with a barbecue in the open air. A wonderful time was had by all who attended, with plenty of food which included burgers, hot dogs, samosa, chicken, salad, ice cream, trifles, lemon meringue and crumbles. Fish were also cooked by **Rev. Latika Singh** as she led the service, reminding the congregation of how Jesus cooked fish on the beach. The children also had fun as they played in a sand pit before enjoying the food with the adults.



James Knott at the keyboards.



Martin Tingle.



Rev Latika Singh leads the worship.



The congregation enjoy the food.



Stephen Bedford.

Catshill Together Remembers

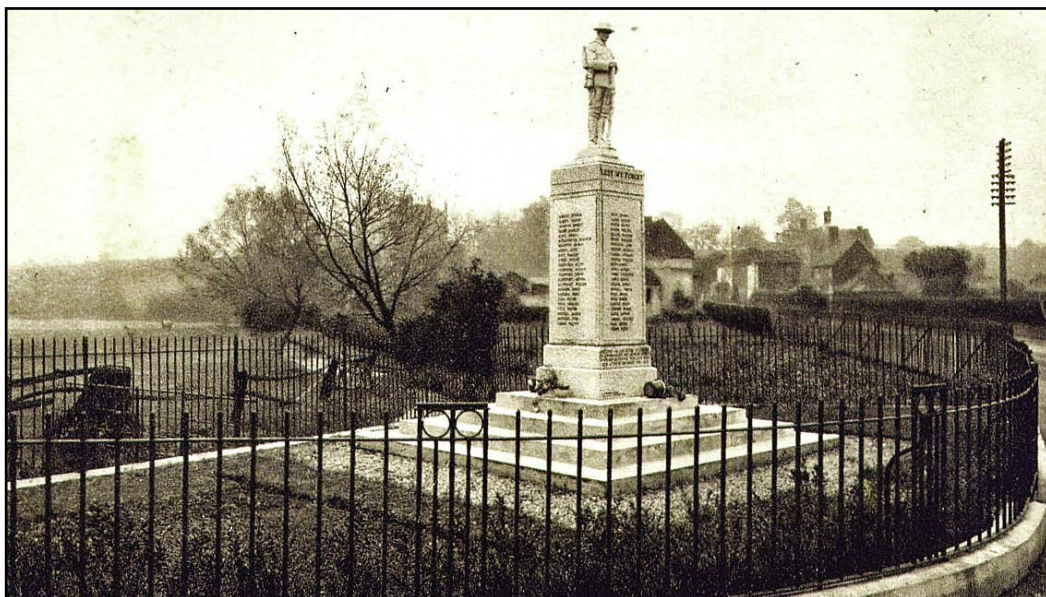
SERVICE OF MEMORIAL
10TH NOVEMBER 11am 2024

Service at Catshill Social Club - 10am
Service at Memorial 10:45am

Tea, Coffee & Bar
Open at Catshill Social Club

ALL PROCEEDS TO POPPY APPEAL 2024





ALTHOUGH I have featured old photographs of the war memorial before; showing the huge crowd that gathered at the original dedication service on October 2nd 1927, I have never shared this image with you. It shows the memorial shortly after it was erected without any crowd surrounding it.

This photograph highlights how the memorial originally stood in splendid isolation, with open fields behind it, and the Crown Inn a short distance to the right. It also shows the original fence that went all around it, most of which was replaced over the years. Interestingly, if you look deep inside the tall hedge that currently separates the memorial from the Crown car park; you will find the last remaining section of the original fence!

For almost 100 years, the memorial has helped ensure that the people of Catshill and surrounding area never forget the supreme sacrifice that so many villagers made in the two world wars.

You may be aware that today's modern fence was recently damaged by a car, but rest assured that this will be repaired soon.

Remember that if you have a photograph that you would like to share, just email: p.masters@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Cover Photograph

OUR cover photograph comes courtesy of **Catshill Middle School**, and shows the delicious apples they have grown in the school's garden. Thank you CMS for sharing one of the delights of autumn.

Catshill Together

Keeping our Community
Warm and Connected

Monday

**Catshill Baptist
Renew Wellbeing**

10am - 12:30pm -

Drop in activities and refreshments

Catshill Library

10am Bounce and Rhyme

CVH Catshill Knit and Natter

Every other Monday 1pm - 3pm

Tuesday

Christ Church

10am til 12pm Private Prayer

Catshill Connect @ Christ Church

1st and 3rd Tuesday - Refreshments,

Chat, Occasional Speaker

Welcome Hall - Coffee Morning

10:30 - 11:30pm

Explorers (reception to year 2

3:30pm - 5pm

Catshill Library

After School Art Club

Evening Readers Club until 7pm

Wednesday

Catshill Baptist Food Bank

10:30am til 12:30pm

Call or email if in need

07754567800

foodbank@catshillfoodbank.org.uk

Welcome Hall - Babies and Toddlers

1:30pm to 3pm

Kids Connect (Years 3 to 7)

7pm to 8:15pm

Thursday

Catshill Baptist Time Out

11am - 1pm

A group for fun, faith,

food and fellowship call 07484141219

CVH - Catshill Health Hub

2pm to 4pm

Exercise, Social, Information

Catshill Games Hub @ CVH

Every other Thursday

4:30pm to 6:30pm (Age 8 to 16)

Friday

Catshill Methodist Church Coffee Shop

9am till 12pm Term Time

10am til 12pm Holidays

Soup and Toast (Donation)

12pm - 1:30pm

CVH - Catshill Knit and Natter

12pm - 2pm

Welcome Hall

Rooted (Years 8 to 13)

7:15pm to 8:45pm

Saturday

Christ Church Craft Group

1st Saturday 2pm til 3:30pm

at Littleheath Garden Centre

Catshill Methodist Church - Coffee Shop

10am til 12pm

Catshill Baptist - Refresh Coffee Morning

1st Saturday 10am til 12pm

Catshill Library

Morning, lego, Story, Craft or Board Games



AS you can see from these photos, Catshill Footpath Work Party volunteers have been busy clearing blocked paths, repairing broken stiles and installing waymark posts and gates. The work has been carried out in and around the village as well as Dodford and Lydiate Ash including the Monarch's Way National Footpath. 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 at 10 am on the third Tuesday of every month. Find out more at www.walks.catshill.com/footpath-work-party

Cllr. Brett Laniosh.

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

IT'S BACK



**Catshill Village
Fireworks Extravaganza**

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

GATES OPEN 5:30PM

LINGFIELD PARK, CATSHILL

**ADULTS £3
CHILDREN £2**



Scouts

6th Bromsgrove

