

NEWS MAGAZINE

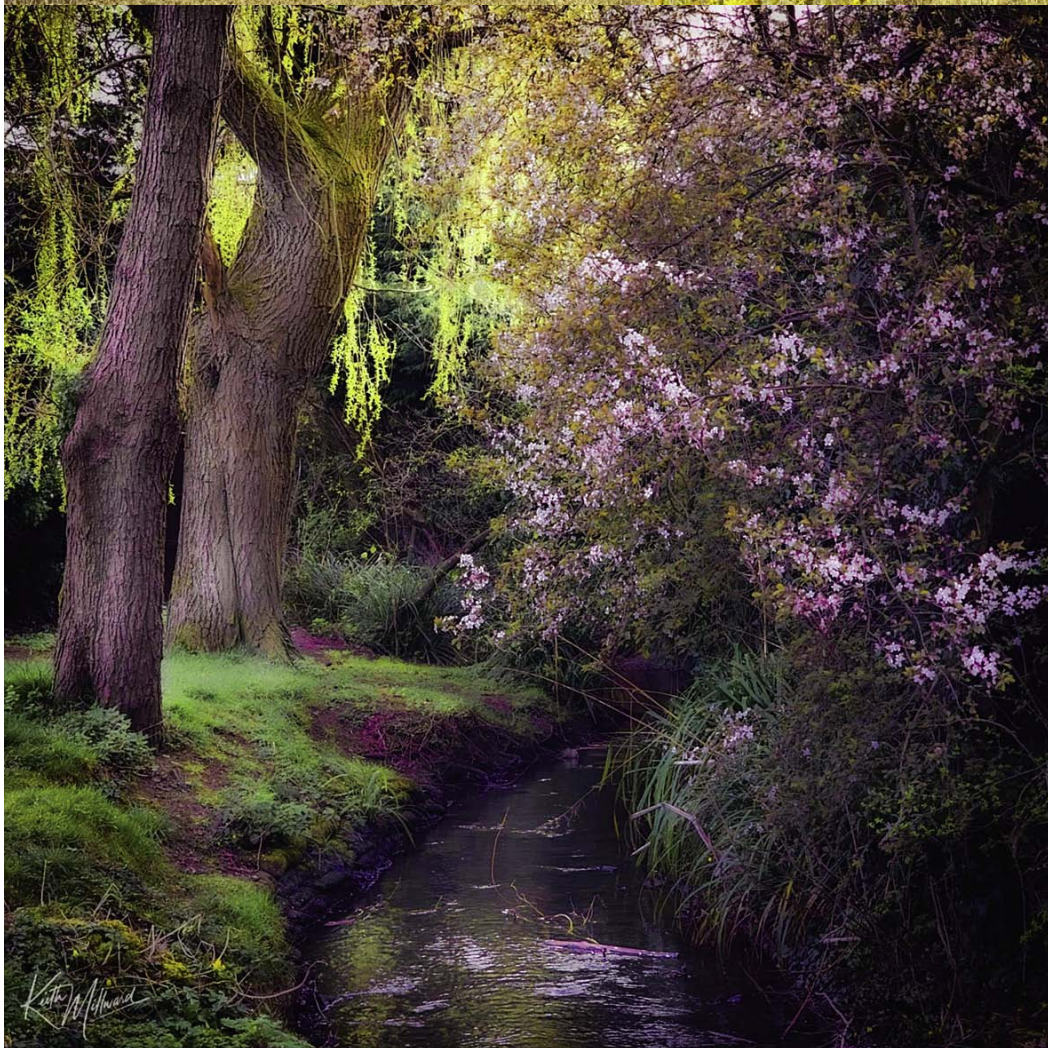


SPRING 2025

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council

www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk



SUPER FUN MAY WEEKEND

See Centre Pages for Details

Community Orchard – Officially Open



*Town Crier & MP Bradley Thomas
open the community Orchard*

ON a crisp December morning, a sense of purpose and community spirit filled the air as volunteers from all corners of Catshill gathered at Milton Road Fields. Their mission was to plant the first phase of the Catshill Community Orchard, a long-awaited project under the popular *Catshill in Bloom* initiative.

Among the rows of newly planted saplings, families and young children could be seen carefully placing bulbs into the earth. Their laughter and chatter brought warmth to the cold morning, marking the orchard's beginnings with a joyful sense of hope.

The orchard is designed to be an evolving space, with future phases planned to expand its reach and impact. It's not just about the trees; it's about cultivating a sense of belonging and

providing a sanctuary where people can come together, whether to lend a hand in its upkeep or simply to enjoy the peace and beauty it offers.

On March 21st 2025 a crowd gathered to witness Bromsgrove's MP Bradley Thomas and Town crier Kevin Ward declare that the Catshill Community Orchard was officially open.

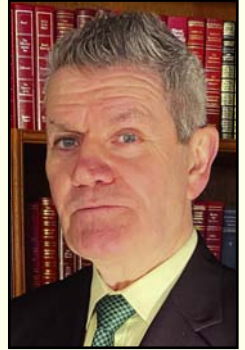
Catshill in Bloom has long been celebrated for its efforts to beautify the village and foster community pride. The orchard takes this mission a step further, offering not just aesthetic appeal but also practical benefits—fruit for residents to enjoy, shaded areas for relaxation, and opportunities for hands-on learning about horticulture and conservation.



*Catshill Community Orchard
is planted*

WELCOME to the Spring 2025 edition of our parish News magazine.

The period between the publications of our Autumn and Spring parish magazines, is always the busiest time of the year for the parish, with events being held during Halloween and Christmas. In the past, the Parish Council took the lead role for organising many of these events. The newly created '*Catshill Community Events*' team, led by Phil Lacey, now coordinates the organisation of these local events, with some still receiving financial support from the Parish Council. They coordinated the following events:



- ***Halloween Party, Catshill Village Hall. 31st October 2024.***
- ***Catshill Village Fireworks Extravaganza, Lingfield Playing Fields, Catshill. 2nd November 2024.***
- ***Remembrance Sunday, Service of Memorial, 10th November 2024.***
- ***Christmas Lights Switch On, Saturday 23rd November 2024***
- ***Christmas Lunch Party, in conjunction with BUSAR (Bromsgrove Ukraine Support and Relief), Catshill Village Hall, 20th December 2024.***

Unfortunately, due to named 'Storm Bert', the Christmas Lights Switch On was cancelled on the day and replaced by a hastily arranged on-line Switch-On event.

The Catshill Community Events team are now involved in arrangements for the forthcoming '***Easter Trail***' event at 11am on Friday 18th April 2025, which starts at Catshill Methodist Church.

They are also involved in arranging ***The Catshill Festival***, which will take place at Catshill Village Meadow between 12pm to 6pm on Saturday 10th May 2025, and a ***VE Day Street Party*** at Catshill Village Meadow between 1pm to 5pm on Sunday 11th May 2025.

All of these events will receive significant financial support from the Parish Council.

At recent Full Parish Council meetings, the following grant applications were approved:

£2500 to the Village Hall, to enable them to install a monitored alarm system and repair the kitchen door lock and the roller shutter to the main door.

£500 awarded to BluWave Community Transport, who operate a Community Transport service for Redditch, Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. The service is for people who are unable to access public transport due to illness, mobility, or, through lack of accessible public transport.

I am pleased to report that several new councillors have been coopted onto the Parish Council. At our Council meeting on the 30th January 2025, Adam O'Hare was coopted. Megan Pagett was coopted at our meeting on the 27th February 2025. We look forward to working with our new colleagues Adam and Megan.

Councillor Bernard McEldowney (chair) 30th January 2025

Annual Christmas Meal



Great Company.

JUST before Christmas over 60 older residents and members of the Ukrainian community enjoyed food and entertainment at the annual free Christmas lunch at the Village Hall.

Once again *Catshill Community Events* organised this popular festive party in partnership with Bromsgrove Ukrainian Support and Relief, known as **BURSAR**.

Attendees enjoyed excellent food, great company and conversation whilst being entertained by the amazing *Vintage Class Singers*, Billy Smith and students from Chadsgrove School. Everyone that attended left with a wrapped Christmas gift supplied by Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council.

Catshill Community Events wished to thank everyone that helped make this an unforgettable afternoon.



The Vintage Class Singers.



Merry Christmas!



A Fine Spread.



A Packed Village Hall.

Where in the Parish?

HERE is this edition's fun photo challenge... can you identify what/where this is a photograph of within the parish?

We will post the answer on our Facebook page, once all copies of this edition have been delivered. In case you missed it the answer to the autumn 2024 challenge, the answer was the black brick wall behind the Co-op.

Remember to give our Facebook page a "like" to be the first to know the answer to "Where in the parish."



Firework Extravaganza New Venue Hailed a Success! 5

THE Catshill Village Firework display was held on Saturday 2nd November at its new venue of Lingfield Park. It was organised by *Catshill Community Events*, hosted by *6th Bromsgrove Scouts* (based in Catshill) and sponsored by *Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council*.

With nine official car parks throughout the village, a full crowd capacity was achieved in the park, with everyone enjoying the usual amazing quality pyrotechnic display by *G-Force Fireworks*.



The Catshill Village Hall stall.



*Phil Lacey
co-ordinating
the event*



*The food vendors were
very popular.*

Although there was no bonfire this year, this was hardly noticed as the increased number of vendors and the addition of singer, *Bad Krispy*, on stage ensured that there was plenty of entertainment and things to see and do before the fireworks started.

Minsec security did a fantastic job including using a drone to monitor from above, and we are pleased to say that no incidents were reported.

St. John Ambulance were also on site to provide first aid cover.

By 8:30 pm, the site was completely cleared of spectators, with volunteers working tirelessly until 11:00 pm to secure the fencing and ensure public safety. Some volunteers returned the next morning to complete the clear up.

With post event social media feedback being overwhelmingly positive, Lingfield Park looks set to remain the home of this amazing community extravaganza.



*MC Cllr. Paul Masters with
Sam Ammar, chair of BDC*



The Fireworks lit up the sky.



*Singer
Bad Krispy.*



The park was filled to capacity.

CATSHILL COMMUNITY
EVENTS PRESENTS

CATSHILL FESTIVAL

10TH MAY 2025 12PM - 6PM

LIVE MUSIC
FACE PAINTING
INFLATABLES
FOOD VENDORS
STALLS
GAMES

CATSHILL VILLAGE MEADOW



EVENT SPONSORED BY
CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL



CATSHILL COMMUNITY EVENTS

VE DAY 80th Anniversary
STREET PARTY

Join us to celebrate on
Sunday 11th May

from 1pm till 5pm

Catshill Village Meadow

Entertainment

Food Vendors

Bring your own:
tables & chairs
food & drink



Event Sponsored by
Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

Remembrance Day

THANKFULLY the railings round the War Memorial that were damaged by a car earlier in the year were replaced in time for Remembrance Sunday.

Therefore Sunday 10th November saw the usual large united congregation of the various Catshill churches along with others; attend a remembrance service in Catshill Social Club at 10:00am, followed by the laying of wreaths and reading of the names of the fallen at the War Memorial at 10:45 with a two minutes silence at 11:00am.

The 2nd Bromsgrove Boys' Brigade drum band led the short parade with bugler Paul Hatton playing the Last Post. Catshill Scouts also had a large presence, along with various County, District and Parish councillors and representatives from other organisations, the Blackwell Concert Band provided the music..

Refreshments were served after the services in the Social club.

Thanks must go to all who helped organise and take part in this annual act of remembrance.



The Railings being replaced



Rev. Simon Gudge led the service in Catshill Club.



Cllr. Bernard McEldowney lays a wreath on behalf of BDC.



The parade along Meadow Road.



The Blackwell Concert Band.



Paul Hatton plays The Last Post.



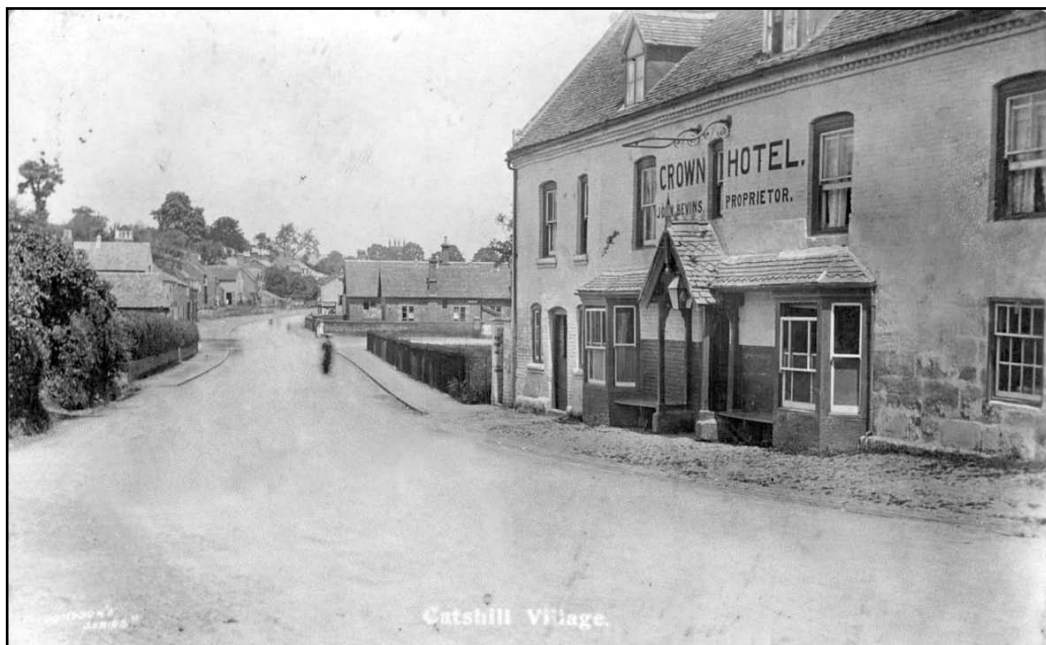
The Standard Bearers



The Service at the War Memorial.



Reading the names of the fallen.



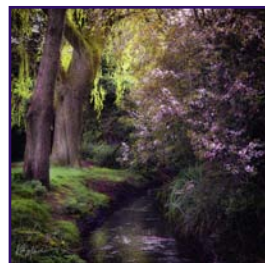
I am delighted to share another early image of what we now call the Crown Inn, though clearly at the time this photograph was taken it was known as the Crown Hotel, and had the proprietor's name of John Bevins proudly painted on the wall. I believe that this photograph dates from around 1905, hence it pre-dates the erection of the War Memorial on the corner of Meadow and Stourbridge Road. It's also interesting to see the now demolished building opposite the War Memorial on Meadow Road that many will remember as being a Dairy. However, at this point in time it would still have been Catshill School.

My thanks go to the reader who wished to remain anonymous for supplying this photograph.

If you have any old photographs of the parish that you would like to share then please let me know p.masters@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Cover Photograph by Keith Millard

BATTLEFIELD Brook within Catshill Village Meadow showing that spring has arrived. The Meadow is a wonderful open space of 3½ acres in the heart of Catshill, for all to enjoy. Take a look at the Catshill Village Meadow Facebook page,
or visit www.catshillvillagemeadow.co.uk for more information.





CATSHILL Methodist Church Centre continues to host Tea /Coffee mornings every Friday and Saturday between 10am and Noon. In run up to Christmas, live music accompanied the refreshments when the *Bromsgrove Amateur Strings* performing their Autumn Coffee Concert on Saturday 26th October. Then, on Saturday 7th December the *David*

Morgan Music Trust (an organisation with the aim of advancing the music education of young people around Bromsgrove), held an informal concert for young musicians. Finally on Saturday 14th December the *Bromsgrove Amateur Strings* returned to perform their Christmas Coffee Concert.

Entry to all three concerts was free, and those that attended really appreciated the musical skills of all the performers.

Footpath Maintenance Group



THE footpath group welcomes volunteers willing to help maintain the public rights of way in and around the village. They meet at 10am on the third Tuesday of every month to carry out tasks such as way-marking, vegetation removal and basic repairs. Find out more by going to:

walks.catshill.com/footpath-work-party

or

facebook.com/groups/northbromsgroveprow

The group started 2025 by clearing the popular path (see photo) that connects Crownhill Meadow and Rocky Lane.

(Cllr) Brett Laniosh

b.laniosh@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

IN a previous issue of the Parish News magazine, we introduced the Worcestershire On-Demand Bus service, a modern and flexible alternative to traditional public transport. Initially launched three years ago, the service has been a valuable addition for the residents of Catshill and North Marlbrook, offering a more adaptable way to travel within a defined zone.

Whether you're a resident or a visitor, the service provides the flexibility to explore the local area or connect to key destinations beyond the zone.

We're pleased to share that Worcestershire County Council has now expanded the service to reach previously under-served rural areas, including parts of Redditch, Alvechurch, Hanbury Hall, Weatheroak, Wychbold, and Wythall. This expansion opens up access to popular attractions such as the Jinny Ring Craft Centre, Beckett's Farm, The Transport Museum, Attwell Farm Park, Upton Warren, and Lickey Hills Country Park.

Booking a trip is easy through the app, with a flat fare of £2.50 per journey. Discounts are available for additional passengers, and first-time users can enjoy a free ride. Concessionary cardholders travel for free after 9:30 AM. Alternatively, you can book by calling 01905 846180 during office hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays).

For more information, visit bit.ly/WODexpands.



Help Keep Our Village Clean & Green!

CAN you spare an hour each month to help keep our village tidy? A little effort goes a long way!

Litter-picking is a simple and rewarding way to:

- ➡ **Keep our community looking its best**
- ➡ **Enjoy fresh air and gentle exercise—no gym fees required!**
- ➡ **Boost your wellbeing while making a real difference**

We'll provide the grabber and bags—you just bring your enthusiasm!

Join us today!

Email: parishclerk@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

Call: **07813 671 899** (Weekdays 9am–2pm)

Together, we can make Catshill & North Marlbrook cleaner, greener, and even more beautiful!



Ivy, Lydia and Megan, from Catshill Middle School, won the chance to press the plunger and turn on the Christmas Lights.

STORM Bert brought high winds to the parish and forced organisers to cancel what would have been the biggest Catshill Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on event to date.

With high winds and rain forecasted, there was no chance of this massively popular outside / inside event taking place with members of the public being there. There was a last minute attempt to move the event to the Middle School, but this was not possible.

However, all the lights were still switched on as planned on Saturday 23rd November at 5pm, with the very short ceremony being streamed live on Facebook.

This years event is already being planned, and should there be bad weather, this time a move to the middle school will be possible if needed.



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**

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