

## Home Safety Advice for Elderly and Vulnerable People

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service is committed to trying to reach as many elderly and vulnerable people in East Sussex as possible in regard to fire safety in the home. Criteria of vulnerability would include the following:-

- Over 65 years old
- Living in rented or sheltered accommodation
- Smokers
- People living in very rural areas
- Young single parents
- People with hearing, sight or mobility and other health problems
- People with mental health problems including dementia
- Migrant communities

ESFRS services can include the following:

- Free home safety visits for people meeting the above criteria, including fitting smoke alarms where necessary
- Home/fire safety information packs for those not necessarily meeting the vulnerability criteria
- Informal fire safety talks to social clubs, residents associations, parent and toddler groups, local 'coffee mornings' migrant community groups etc.
- Further 'referral on' to Independent Living Service for people experiencing difficulties within their homes. Independent Living Service can offer assessments and advice for a range of services including finance/benefits, meals on wheels, additional mobility, hearing and sight aids around the home, access to Care Providers, help with gardening and housework and advice on community/social activities etc.

If you would like any further information, then please contact The Clerk on 01424 893526 who can arrange for ESFRS to give a Fire Safety Talk at Catsfield Village Hall.

## Bexhill Mobile Library Schedule

The Mobile Library is scheduled to visit the Village Hall on Saturdays from 4.15 - 4.45pm on

<b>October</b> 15th / 29th	<b>November</b> 12th / 26th	<b>December</b> 10th
<b>January</b> 7th / 21st	<b>February</b> 4th / 18th	<b>March</b> 3rd / 17th / 31st

## CONTACT WITH YOUR COUNCIL:

**Visit** our website at [www.catsfieldpc.co.uk](http://www.catsfieldpc.co.uk)  
**Email** your comments regarding any Village matters to: [clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk)  
**Write** to Parish Council at **The Village Hall, Church Rd, Catsfield, East Sussex. TN33 9DP**  
**Read** the information on Parish Council's **notice boards**  
**Phone** the Parish Office on **01424 893526**  
**Speak** and have your say at a **Parish Council meeting**. - **1st Wednesday of each month**

**Would you like to receive Newsletters by email ?**

**Please send your email address to The Clerk at : [clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@catsfieldpc.co.uk)**  
**Catsfield Parish Council, The Village Hall, Church Road, Catsfield, East Sussex. TN33 9DP**  
**T 01424 893526. [www.catsfieldpc.co.uk](http://www.catsfieldpc.co.uk)**

Issue 3

Autumn 2011

# The Catsfield Flyer...



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter.

As the nights draw in we are reminded that British Summer Time ends on the last Sunday in October so don't forget to put your clocks **BACK** by one hour at **2.00 am on Sunday 30th October.**

### What is a Parish Council?

A Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the district authority (Rother District Council) above it in the hierarchy.

### What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Parish Councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that Parish Councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

It's true to say that on their own Parish Councils have limited powers to make decisions, but they do have the power to influence and the ability to negotiate with the authorities who make the decisions i.e. County Council, the Health Services and the Police etc.

In this respect Parish Councils **are** powerful. The authorities who make the final decisions know that a Parish Council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and those views are taken seriously.

### What powers do Parish Councils have?

They have a wide range of powers which essentially relate to local matters, such as looking after community buildings, open spaces, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters, car parks and more. The Parish Council also has the power to raise money through taxation, the 'Precept', which is the Parish Councils share of the Council Tax.

### Parish Duties

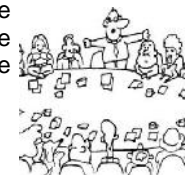
Catsfield Parish Council has seven Councillors who stand for election every four years. The duties and functions of a Parish Council are many and varied.

They meet monthly to consider on-going business, new planning applications and any matters submitted by local residents, Rother District and East Sussex County Councils.

All meetings are open to the public and there is a forum before the start of the meeting at which members of the public can raise their concerns. The meetings are advertised on the Council notice board and on their website.

Residents may bring anything that concerns them to the attention of the Parish Council, either directly or through the Clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the Clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority.

There is also an Annual Meeting which all residents are invited to attend.



## Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

Catsfield Parish Council is delighted to be participating in The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, led by the Duke of Cambridge, to mark the Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

We are working with Fields in Trust towards their goal to protect two-thousand and twelve outdoor recreational spaces by 2012 as a permanent, tangible legacy from both the Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

Outdoor recreational spaces are vital to creating happy and healthy communities and can help to increase participation in physical activity, reduce anti-social behaviour and promote volunteering.

*'Save a space for me'*

If you like getting out into the fresh air, having a kick about in your local park or just seeing a bit of green space then mark this date in your diary! Starting on 18th October, for four weeks only, you can visit [www.qe2fields.com](http://www.qe2fields.com) and show your support for your local green spaces. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is campaigning to get local authorities and landowners to protect your outdoor spaces for future generations to enjoy. Go online, search for your favourite places or see which ones you like the look of and with one click, you can show you support them.

So get ready for 18th October and get clicking to say 'Save a Space for Me!'.

Catsfield Parish Council is permanently protecting The Catsfield Playing Area for the benefit of future generations:

To show your support or to engage in volunteering activities on this field please visit [www.qe2fields.com](http://www.qe2fields.com)



## Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 2012

Preparations are well underway for the Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations next June.

Letters have gone out to Clubs and Societies inviting them to contribute a display of photographs or information about the activities of their organisation to form an exhibition at the celebrations. Please let us know if you have not received yours.

The events being arranged include Village Displays by our groups and societies, Hand-bell Ringers, Village Choir, Cricket Match, Performance by CADS watched over with a picnic, Queen Elizabeth II's 'Big Picnic Lunch', a Family Fun Day, Tea Party, 50/60's Dance, St Laurence Church Pageant and Service, Fireworks and the list goes on ..... Oh and of course plenty of refreshments!

Between now and next June the QDJ Committee will be fundraising and all proceeds will go to making this a weekend to remember. So please come and support us when you can

If individuals, clubs or groups have ideas to share or would be willing to volunteer to help organise an event, then please contact:

Mrs. Ann Davey - Tel: 830477 or Email: [madavey19@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:madavey19@yahoo.co.uk)

(Oops..... put the wrong email address last time!)



## Plan for a cold snap, but don't forget your neighbours!

While most people's thoughts are turning to planning for Christmas, top of your list might not be what to do in an emergency! At this time of year you might have to deal with bad weather and the power cuts that come with them. Of course we want to make sure that if anything should happen, you and your family are prepared. We also want you to look out for your neighbours – especially if they are elderly or disabled.

If something does happen and you know someone who might need help, here are a few simple things you can do. Make sure they know what is happening and that they are not worried. Also make sure they are warm and have enough food and something to drink and pop in regularly just to let them know you're there. In case of a power cut make sure they have a torch and batteries and blankets to keep warm. If you need to be evacuated, tell the emergency services your neighbour might need help.

## Hedgerows and Verges

The responsibility for maintaining hedges, trees and other vegetation lies with the occupier of the property. Although some hedges do get trimmed, some are encroaching over the pavement. The bulk of growth and/or brambles growing across the footpath are a hazard to pedestrians and it is becoming increasingly necessary to step onto the road, particularly for those in wheelchairs and parents with young children and/or pushchair. Also those with poor eyesight cannot see such hazards clearly. All this is extremely dangerous and completely avoidable when hedges are properly maintained.

From time to time ESCC Highways carry out checks and rectification letters are/may/will be issued. If these are ignored, this could result in the work being carried out by them and the cost of the work being charged to the occupier.

## Reminder to Dog Owners



One of our favourite subjects!

"Under recent legislation a local authority can designate land upon which it is an offence not to clean up after your dog. The local authority enforces this power. The maximum fine for an offence is £1,000 (level 3 on the standard scale). Alternatively, Councils have the power to issue a £50 fixed penalty fine.

Byelaws can also be made by local authorities to impose dog bans, make dog fouling an offence and insist that dogs be kept on leads".

Catsfield Parish Council have chosen not to adopt this legislation as it is difficult to police and costly to the Village. In return **we ask that Dog Owners act responsibly. Responsible owners do not allow their dogs to foul public places. Ideally, dogs should be trained from an early age to 'go at home' in their own garden before or after a walk, rather than during. If dog fouling does occur away from home the responsible owner will clean up after the dog. Any suitable plastic bag can be used, or special poop-scoop bags can be purchased from pet shops, veterinary surgeries or stores. Dispose of faeces in the Dog Waste bins provided or take the bag home.**

**Dog poo can contain a number of things which can make people ill, including the eggs of Toxocara canis (a roundworm). This can cause aches and pains, bronchial conditions and in rare cases, eyesight may be damaged. We ask all dog owners to scoop up the poop and protect everyone from potential health problems.**