

101 - The new Police Non-Emergency number

101 is the new number to contact the police on for non-urgent issues from 14 November 2011. 101 replaces the existing 0845 8 505 505 number, although both numbers will run side by side until the end of March. Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day or duration. 101 can be used to report crime such as: stolen cars, property damage, suspicion of drug use or dealing, minor traffic collision and providing information about crime.

In an emergency please continue to use 999.

Village Hall / Hermon Cottage Key holder and Snooker Room Bookings



Julia and Kipp Watts have been the custodians of the Village Hall keys for more years than we dare to think! But they have now moved on to pastures new. With immediate effect Carol Hodgson - aka The Clerk - is the new key holder for the Village Hall and Hermon Cottage.

You can also contact Carol for hiring the **Snooker Room on 01424 893526** which is available for hire everyday from 9am to 8pm at £4 per hour.

For Village Hall bookings and enquiries please contact:

Jim and Sarah Campbell - Catsfield Village Stores, The Green. T 01424 893498 or Email: sjr.campbell@virgin.net

A copy of the current month's hiring availability can always be found on the notice board inside the Village hall together with a list of rates.

Branch Doctors Surgery in Hermon Cottage

Dr. Mogan's Branch Surgery which is held in Hermon Cottage each Wednesday at 1.45pm will not be running during January and February 2012 and possibly part of March 2012. Prescriptions can still be dropped into Hermon Cottage and will be sent off each Wednesday.

Bexhill Mobile Library Schedule

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

January 7th / 21st **February** 4th / 18th **March** 3rd / 17th / 31st

CONTACT WITH YOUR COUNCIL:

Visit our website at www.catsfieldpc.co.uk
Email your comments regarding any Village matters to: 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
Catsfield Parish Council, The Village Hall, Church Road, Catsfield, East Sussex. TN33 9DP
T 01424 893526. www.catsfieldpc.co.uk**

Issue 4

Winter 2011/12

The Catsfield Flyer...

Welcome to our Winter newsletter.

This newsletter is produced to provide information to residents about Parish Council activities and, where space permits, other articles which may be relevant or interesting.

What happened in 2011?

Well, for Parish Council 2011 was a year of quiet progress. As we now prepare the budget for 2012/13, let us reflect with you our expenditure for the year gone by

Parish Council gets to do the good bits. We look after the village and the local environment. This includes, amongst other things, grass cutting at the playing field, running the Community Pavilion, ensuring safe and enjoyable play areas, street lighting, providing dog poo bins (OK maybe not one of the good bits), liaising between the residents, County + District Councils.

Let's start with our 'day-to-day' expenditure. Insuring the Pavilion and our assets like the bus shelter, benches, playground equipment, office equipment, events and the money! The running of our Pavilion - water, power, heating, security, cleaning materials and general maintenance. The upkeep of the Street lights and their supply of power. Regular emptying of litter and dog poo bins. Running the Parish Office....and paying for the Clerk.

We continued to provide annual support to

- * Catsfield School by assisting with their costs for a Lollipop Person to ensure the safety of our children crossing the road to and from School.
- * St Laurence Church by paying for annual ground maintenance of the Cemetery
- * The History Group by way of a contribution to help maintain the Village Archive.

We made one-off contributions to

- * The Village Hall towards their new audio / visual equipment
- * The Over 18's Social Club to purchase a Wii and accessories

And finally we have our projects lead by you through the Local Action Plan and by coming to us direct. This year our projects have seen

- * The completion of the drainage system at Catsfield Playing Field, which has resulted in less cancelled sports activities and events due to a water logged pitch.
- * The start of our quarterly Newsletter to everyone in the Parish
- * Replacing our 13 mercury street lamps (which will soon become obsolete) with 32 Watt Fluorescent lanterns
- * Two additional dog poo bins with bag dispensers installed in Broomham Lane and opposite the school to help keep dog poo off our footpaths
- * The first stage of our refurbishment plan for the Children's Play Area at the Playing Field which saw dead and dangerous trees and branches removed to lighten up the area.

And before our financial year end in March you will be seeing

- * New storage facilities at the Playing Field
- * A bus shelter outside the Old Police House on The Green

.....and so we continue into 2012.....



A WINTER message from East Sussex County Council Highways

Preparing for Winter.....

With winter approaching, we all need to prepare for the cold weather ahead. As always our priority is to make sure that the main roads are gritted to reduce the risk of ice and keep the county moving.

We keep stocks of rock salt, also known as grit, and when icy conditions are forecast our fleet of 25 vehicles salt more than 840 miles of the top priority roads, and an extra 200 miles of secondary roads. The gritters put down between five and nine tonnes on each route, depending on the severity of the weather.

From previous winters we have learnt that it's important for people to be able to clear snow and ice themselves if they can. We aim to help you do this by maintaining local grit bins, which you can use on the pavements or road outside your house or on steep hills. Requests for grit bins can be made through your parish, town or district council. If you need a new or existing grit bin refilled, please contact our Highways Contact Centre. We will then refill it when we fill our own grit bins.

Our highway teams are currently working to prevent the damage caused by snow and ice. By fixing the roads in the worst condition we aim to protect them from potholes and further damage. This includes more than 240 road improvement schemes, covering about 112 miles of highway across the county.

It is important to stay informed during severe weather. As well as listening to local news, you can also keep up to date through our website, twitter feed and school closure alert system. Whilst we will do our best to keep Council services running, we will let you know if any are affected.

You can sign up for the live update on school closures via our website, where you will also find maps of the gritting routes and our latest weather news.

For more information go to eastsussex.gov.uk/weather or call 0345 60 80 193.

Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 2012

The Diamond Jubilee Committee is in full swing preparing for the June 2012 celebrations. Enclosed you will find a provisional programme showing the events being planned for your enjoyment.

The Jumble Sale in October 2011 was a great success and raised an amazing £332. Many thanks to everyone who donated, helped and bought!

Further fundraising events have now been confirmed - a 'Cabaret and Supper' on Saturday 11th February and a 'Royal Quiz' to follow on 17th March - Please see the enclosed leaflets for further details. There will also be a 'Fun Disco' in April so keep a watch on the notice boards for further details.

Do you have any photo's or memorabilia of Coronation or Jubilee Celebrations in Catsfield? If you do the Diamond Jubilee Committee or History Group would love to hear from you. These would become part of the Village Displays at the beginning of the celebrations and a welcome addition to our History Archive.



Digital Switchover

Help is at hand to switch to digital TV.....

TV is switching to digital all over the UK and if you don't have digital TV by the time of switchover, you will lose your TV channels. This can seem a bit daunting but there is help available for anyone who is over 75 and/or is disabled.

The BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme offers practical help for older and disabled people to convert one TV set to digital, including installation of the easy-to-use equipment, a demonstration of how to use it and 12 months of aftercare service including a free helpline. If you are eligible you will have been sent a Help Scheme letter and information pack through the post.

Most eligible people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option whilst those who are eligible and on income related benefits will get it free. If you want the help, you need to apply by telephoning the Help Scheme or completing the form.

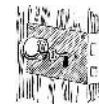
The Switchover Help Scheme has helped hundreds of thousands of people to switch to digital.

For more information, call 0800 40 85 900 or visit helpscheme.co.uk.

Police Alerts

Police are asking residents to keep their sheds and outbuildings secure following a small rise in break-ins in the Battle area.

With the long dark winter nights, there has been an increase in the theft of gardening tools, including strimmers, chainsaws and leaf blowers. This sort of equipment should be kept safely locked away. If anyone sees any suspicious vehicles in their area call the Police immediately so officers can check it out.



**ALSO REMEMBER THAT METAL THEFT IS ON THE INCREASE -
SECURE ALL YOUR SCRAP AND USABLE METALS.**

Parking on footpaths and verges

It has been noted that it is becoming increasingly common for people to park their vehicles on the footpaths and verges around the village. This makes it dangerous for people to walk around Catsfield, especially for those people using wheelchairs or pushchairs as they are forced to walk in the road. Please help preserve our grass verges by not parking on them.

Dog Fouling

Despite previous pleas the Parish Council has received an increasing number of complaints concerning the irresponsible behaviour of some dog owners who fail to clear up after their animals. This is primarily occurring at the recreation ground but also on the streets in general. We are very concerned about the unpleasant mess but also about the health risk posed to children using the recreational facilities. We now have 3 fully operational Dog Waste bins - 2 with 'poo bag' dispensers. It is an offence not to clear up dog fouling in any public place. The fixed penalty fine is £75 and if not paid the court fine is £1000. Picking up after a dog is not pleasant but owning an animal does come with responsibility so please be considerate and think of others.

