



PARISH NEWSLETTER

November 2014

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Chairman's Report

If there is one thing that I intend to achieve as current Chairman, it is to improve the interaction between the Parish Council and residents of Catcliffe.

I often hear stories of how community spirited our village once was, something that we still see, but certainly not enough. I am proud to live in Catcliffe, and feel that we can return to the days when everyone knew their neighbours names and stopped to speak to each other. The key is to talk and listen. The Parish Council is here to serve the community but we can't achieve that without residents telling us what they want. Contact details for all your Councillors are on the last page so please contact them, not simply to report litter or dog fouling, but to let them know what you would like to see to improve Catcliffe.

Many areas are exclusively the responsibility of the Borough Council so please see the Useful Contacts section on the back page which gives details of who you can report problems to directly.

The Parish Council is responsible for local recreational facilities and land under the Council's ownership. However we can't work miracles, and exist on a very small income. The Borough Council are burdening us with more responsibility year on year, as they seek to address their budget cuts, so the money that we have available has to go even further. This doesn't mean that we have to accept things getting worse, we just need to change our approach. For example we now have to fund grass cutting of the land under our control. As a result the allotments have been leased to a community association,

as has the bowling green, to ensure they remain an important Council owned asset, but at a reduced cost.

The Councils current primary issue is the long term future of the Memorial Hall. This facility is no longer fit for purpose, and needs major work if it is to continue to serve the community in the future. We are adamant this facility should not be lost. However difficult decisions have to be made to preserve and enhance the building. Replacing the building with a new facility appears to be too expensive as does a total renovation of the entire building.

The Councils preferred option is to renovate the main part of the hall, together with the existing meeting room, whilst demolishing the unused parts. However as this is your facility a public consultation will be undertaken. Please see the Hall article herein and provide your comments. The building could provide for a multitude of events or facilities. The key is to know what you want. Don't think that your opinion is not valuable, or indeed unwanted, start to engage with myself and others and together we can turn our village back into the thriving, friendly community it once was.

We also desperately need people to come forward so we can achieve more. We have already been involved with community led litter picks, the graveyard clear up and the Big Lunch event, and do you want to know a secret, it also feels pretty good to put something back into the community, just ask one of those people in the village who have made the effort already!

A Cater

Friends of Catcliffe

When Friends of Catcliffe asked for suggestions for community activities, Maxine Spittlehouse, 2nd from left, asked if they could tidy the churchyard up at St Marys Church. Reverend David Bent was delighted to agree and everything was set in place.

Over 20 volunteers hacked, sawed, clipped and pruned a mountain of vegetation that was invading the churchyard and over running the graves. Part of the team cleared some of the unsightly paths and paved areas.

The transformation was staggering as can be seen from before and after pictures.

Plans are now in place for a return visit as there is still much



to be done.

If you'd like to help with future activities of the group, full contact details are at:

www.friendsofcatcliffe.org.uk.
facebook.com/friendsofcatcliffe



Friends of Catcliffe - Year End Review

During the short time the group have been in existence they have become members of RotherFed and have forged links with other organisations such as Voluntary Action Rotherham. They have also had support from the Parish Council and the local Borough Councillors.

The group is represented on the Rother Valley West Area Assembly, the Rother Valley West Housing Panel and the Brinsworth & Catcliffe Learning Community. In addition the Chairman is a RotherFed Digital Champion and member of the Rotherham Digital Inclusion Network which gives access to a vast source of technology and expertise. The Secretary is on the management

committee of the Meadows Sure Start Centre.

Many people have contacted Friends of Catcliffe with suggestions of projects they could take on. The group are delighted by this and want to make a difference. However the group are also keen to recruit volunteers to help deliver projects. By example, the two Waste Skip days could have been better supported.

In contrast volunteers helped make The Big Lunch event at the Memorial Hall (which they hope to repeat) a lovely day and the Graveyard clean-up a tremendous success. These achievements illustrate what can be achieved if residents work together.

There are a couple of further plans

in the pipeline which the group hope to deliver in partnership with other organisations in the village. However they do need the people of Catcliffe to muck in. So if you fancy running an event at the Memorial Hall, whether it be recreational or educational, organising an environmental project, a coffee morning, whatever, get in touch.

Ask yourself not what Friends of Catcliffe can do for you but what you can do for Catcliffe. Contact us below:

facebook.com/friendsofcatcliffe

www.friendsofcatcliffe.org.uk.

Secretary:
Glenys Cooper
01709 375435

Catcliffe Memorial Hall – Have your say

As Custodian Trustee of the Memorial Hall, the Parish Council recently obtained an Options Appraisal Report to enable members to consider the options available to retain this facility for the parish.

Without renovation to a modern standard the facility would need to close. Members are aware that there are no cheap options. The recently agreed preferred option is to keep the original building but demolish part of the hall and the two storey extension, which is in a very poor state of repair and currently unused. By reducing the size of the facility it is hoped that the remaining structure can be brought up to a higher standard and ongoing maintenance costs can be reduced. Significant funding in the region of £250,000 will still be required to undertake the work.

In light of the costs and the impact the facility has on the community, the Parish Council wants your views before any final decision is taken.

If you have any comments please contact the Council at catcliffepcouncil@gmail.com or write to: Clerk to the Council, Catcliffe Memorial Hall, Old School Lane, Catcliffe S60 5SP. Alternatively please give your comments on our website forum at www.catcliffeparishcouncil.com



Activities at the Catcliffe Memorial Hall

Why not visit the Catcliffe Memorial Hall and take part in the many different activities on offer there :-

Monday evenings

7.30 pm to 9.00 pm Scouts activities

Tuesday

6.00 pm to 7.30 pm Yoga class

On the second Tuesday bi-monthly, the Catcliffe Flood Committee meets at 7.00pm

Wednesday

7.00 pm to 8.30 pm Cubs activities

The Parish Council meetings take place on the first Wednesday of every month (except August) starting at 6.00 pm

Thursday

7.00 pm to 8.30 pm Yoga class

Friday

Weight Watchers 4.40-6.30pm from January 2nd 2015

Alternatively if you want to hire the Hall for your own one off event or a regular activity current fees are only £17 per hour for residents / £20 per hour non-residents for the Main Hall or £7 per hour for the meeting room. Check availability by contacting the Clerk at catcliffepcouncil@gmail.com or on 07985 327377.

Rose Cottage Boarding Cattery

53 Sheffield Lane
Catcliffe,
Rotherham
S60 5TA

Graham Hopkinson

01709 374700
graham@ghopkinson.plus.com

“Do you Want to Advertise here?”
Contact: catcliffepcouncil@gmail.com for details.

Catcliffe Parish Councillors are:

Andrew Cater

46 Georgian Mews, Catcliffe

andy@amusementcaterers.com

07813 604971

Guy McIntosh

11 High Hazel Crescent,

Catcliffe

01709 372509

Darren Hughes

27 Bluemans Way, Catcliffe

darren.hughes@darrenjhughes.co.uk

07957 648423

Andy Roddison

10 Flatts Lane, Treeton

07957 209390

Shaun Hughes

27 Bluemans Way, Catcliffe

07984 031311

Tony Wilkinson

81 High Hazel Crescent,

Catcliffe

01709 376898

Glenys Cooper

89 Sheffield Lane, Catcliffe

glenarycoop2@fsmail.net

01709 375435

Declan Healy

77 High Hazel Crescent,

Catcliffe

declan.healy@hotmail.co.uk

07811450626

Reg Littleboy

6 Fairburn Gardens, Brinsworth

r.littleboy1@talktalk.net

01709 371459

The Clerk, Angela Harrison,

catcliffepcouncil@gmail.com

07985 327377

Useful Contacts

Streetpride (RMBC):

01709 336003 (Report potholes, dog fouling, flytipping or faulty highways signs and street lights)

South Yorkshire Police: 101
 (Non emergencies)

South Yorkshire Travel Transport Helpline:

01709 515151 (Information about public transport services)

Age UK Rotherham: 01709 835214 (Help for older people)

RMBC General Enquiries
 01709 382121

RMBC Council Tax and Benefits
 01709 336006

RMBC Adult Social Services
 01709 822330

RMBC Children's Social Care
 01709 823987

RMBC Housing Repairs and Enquiries 01709 336009

We're on the Web

www.catcliffeparishcouncil.com

Catcliffe Civic Service

At the recent Civic Service, Catcliffe Parish Councillors were in attendance along with Councillors from other localities and local community groups. The two main speakers were Sarah Champion MP and Deputy Mayoress of Rotherham, Maggi Clark who both gave readings from the Bible. Rev Helen Bent led the service and the sermon was delivered by Rev David Bent. Talented musician Steve Trotter ended the service with a selection of songs and the evening was finished with an excellent buffet.



Pictured (left to right) are Andy Cater, Chairman of Catcliffe Parish Council, Sarah Champion MP and Maggi Clark, Deputy Mayoress

Swing Apology - Poplar Way Recreation Ground

Understandably, there were a lot of complaints about the playground being closed for a large part of the summer break. The ground works required to relay the foundations for the swings necessitated the surface to be completely dry to a considerable depth. A lesson we learnt from the reinstatement of the other set of swings, the previous year, was to take the opportunity when it arose. Otherwise we might not get another chance to do the job for many months. Unfortunately, the perfect time was at the least convenient period of the year. If the work had not been done then, however, another opportunity may not have arisen for many months, possibly even a couple of years. I would like to apologise again on behalf of the Parish Council. It was a tough decision in a difficult situation, but it was taken in the belief that it was in best interests of all, in the long term.

A Cater (Chairman)