

PARISH NEWSLETTER

| December 2015 |

Chairmans Report

You may remember the last newsletter largely focussing on the Memorial Hall renovation – following analysis of the resident’s survey, we decided to go for the option (2B) which will see the unused part of the hall demolished and the rest refurbished. It is hoped that we can retain a stage facility and also incorporate a bespoke office, whilst still maintaining the two separate meeting rooms and a kitchen. There will still be some green space, but increasing the amount of parking is also a priority. It will not be easy to manage all this, but we are currently having plans drafted for submission to the planning department.

More good news, this time regarding the High Hazels area of the village. As many of you will be aware, RMBC suddenly put the grassland below the play area up for sale – this sparked a mass reaction from residents. Led by Kerry Sunderland and some trusted accomplices, a petition against this, containing over five hundred signatures was produced within a matter of days and (to be fair to the council) the land was withdrawn from sale the day before it’s proposed auction. Thanks mainly to Kerry, her friends, and a lot of behind the scenes work from borough (and parish) councillor Andy Roddison, the parish council

is now in the process of extending the lease for the play area, to include this land, meaning it will potentially be there for the use of residents for many years to come. This is a fantastic example of everybody working together for the good of the village, and shows that the residents of Catcliffe do care about their community.

Having recently received some literature about MUGA’s (multi use games areas), I was wondering if people would be interested in something like this – possibly for a section of the Recreation Ground, as there is access to funding for such projects, meaning that we may be able to supply at very little, or possibly even no cost to the precept. Just let us know, via the website or one of the other means of contact, if this kind of thing appeals, or if not, what you would like to see in Catcliffe. Just because central funding is being reduced, whilst a lot of our base costs increase, this doesn’t stop us from trying to improve things via other means, such as grants. There are plenty of revenue streams out there, if you know where to look, but we need to know what YOU want.

Some sad news also, though, with the passing of Brian Jolly. Although not known to everyone, Brian was a very active member of the community, spending many years as a parish councillor and many of them as Chairman. He was

in charge of the council when I joined, and if I can achieve a fraction of what he did during my time, I will be very satisfied. Our thoughts go out Betty and the rest of the family, at this sad time – but rest assured, Brian certainly left his mark on the village and will not be forgotten! As a mark of respect, at the last meeting, the parish council also agreed to donate £150 to Rotherham Hospice in memory of Brian.

It is nice to see that a number of groups are becoming active in the area. As well as “Friends of Catcliffe”, there is a thriving church scene at St Mary’s, with Tuesday’s Coffee Pot regularly well attended – these two groups also get together to facilitate churchyard clean ups and litter picks. There is now regular activity at Mere Brow and Chapel Walk, plus we have the Allotment Society and Flood Group and a number of classes at the Memorial Hall. The old Methodist Chapel is now a dance/theatre school and we also have the river running through, if you want to try a bit of fishing. There are some lovely walks, just minutes from your door, through some gorgeous countryside, or you could follow one of the bike trails going through Waverley. There is quite a bit to do around the village, you just need to look for it. Why not take the plunge and have a go at something new – it doesn’t have to cost a lot and may be right on your doorstep.

Friends Of Catcliffe news

Friends Of Catcliffe, now bolstered by an increased committee and the additional support of good friends, continued their efforts in uniting community life in the village. A generous grant from the Parish Council now enables the group to offer free internet access to any group, function or meeting. St Marys Church have taken advantage of this and this facility is provided at their Coffee Pot mornings and other church gatherings. Still at the Church, there have been two more churchyard cleanups and these are a great example of community partnership providing a valued service to the village.

The group ran a number of events. The Easter Eggstravaganza was great fun and the children benefitted from lots of chocolate. The day was made especially satisfying and possible thanks to the brilliant support from local businesses and grateful thanks must go to them. Equally uplifting was the Big Lunch which saw a Face

Painter and Children's Entertainer enthral everyone with their skills. Due to sponsorship and grants, this event was available free to everyone and it was a little disappointing that the whole village didn't support the event, they missed a fabulous day.

One venture that was very satisfying was a Race Night at the Red Lion. Punters went home happy with a few bob, the group added to their funds and the MS Centre received a cheque to aid them in their work. Yet another charity contribution was enabled thanks to a coffee morning in aid of Macmillans Support.

Future plans for the group include more bulb planting and they are always willing to listen to suggestions for sites where anyone would like to see flowers, shrubs etc and help to plant them is also welcome. There will be a Christmas Party at the Memorial Hall on the 19th December and again, the more the merrier so please come along. Plans for the Old Folks tea to resume are still in abeyance.

Friends Of Catcliffe are able and willing to support anyone wishing

to run activities or events in the village. At present a vacancy exists to organise Indoor Bowling sessions at the hall and this is a top class facility at the hall. The group's network includes local Housing Panels, Area Assemblies, Learning Forums, Rotherfed and support and knowledge is available from all these agencies.

Although support from the north end of the village is a little slow in forthcoming, the group were able to offer valuable support to the petition against the sale of the green space at Highfield View. Other active support was offered to those objecting to the traffic problems at Sheffield Lane and also to the weed clearing on the banks of the Rother. These outcomes exemplify the mantra of communities working together to achieve their goals. So why not come aboard and enjoy the ride.

Pete DeVeaux.

www.facebook.com/friendsofcatcliffe.

www.friendsofcatcliffe.org.uk.
Tel: 01709 375435

Catcliffe Parish Council Supports Rotherham Hospice in Memory of Councillor Brian Jolly

In October Chairman Andrew Cater presented Rotherham Hospice with a donation in memory of Councillor Brian Jolly who sadly passed away earlier this year. The Hospice had kindly been involved in Councillor Jolly's care and members wanted to thank them for their hard work and commitment helping members of the community at such difficult times.

Councillor Jolly had been a member of the Parish Council for many years before his recent retirement. He was committed to serving the residents of Catcliffe to ensure better services for all and to improve the community in which we live. Parish Councillors, like Councillor Jolly are volunteers who freely give their time helping those around them. He took particular pride in maintaining the recreational ground on Poplar



Way, helping with the day to day management to ensure the facility was always at its best. He will be greatly missed by members of the Council and those in the community who appreciated all his efforts to make Catcliffe a more vibrant place to live.

Parish Councillors

Andrew Cater, 46 Georgian Mews, Catcliffe
andy@amusementcaterers.com, 07813 604971

Andy Roddison, 10 Flatts Lane, Treeton
andy.roddison@rotherham.gov.uk, 07957 209390

Tony Wilkinson, 81 High Hazel Crescent, Catcliffe
01709 376898

Darren Hughes, 27 Bluemans Way, Catcliffe
darren.hughes@darrenjlhughes.co.uk
07957 648423

Declan Healy, 77 High Hazel Crescent, Catcliffe
declan.healy@hotmail.co.uk, 07811 450626

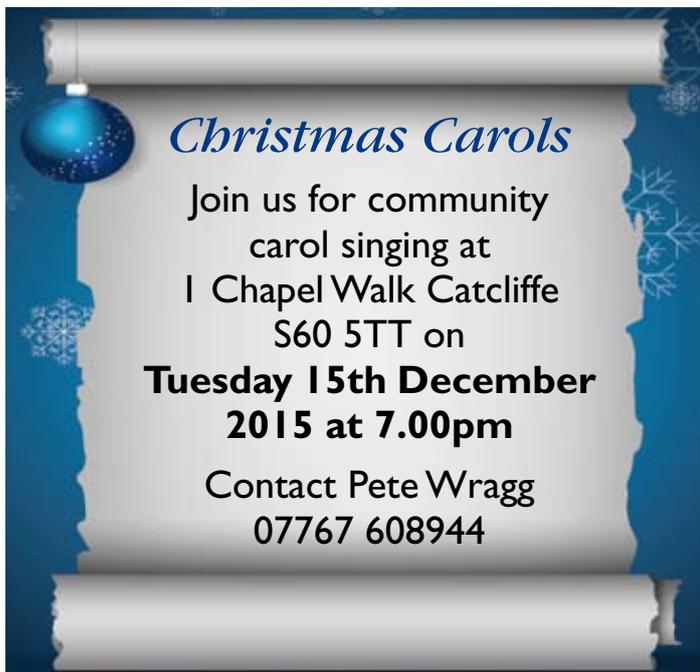
Glenys Cooper, 89 Sheffield Lane, Catcliffe
glengarycoop2@fsmail.net, 01709 375435

Garry Marsh, garrym14@hotmail.co.uk
07977 192154

David Vickers, d_vickers@hotmail.com
07778 595144

Pete DeVeaux, pete@deveaux.f9.co.uk
07721 601128

Alternatively contact the Parish Council via :
Clerk to the Council, Angela Harrison,
catcliffecouncil@gmail.com, 07985 327377



Christmas Carols

Join us for community
carol singing at
1 Chapel Walk Catcliffe
S60 5TT on
**Tuesday 15th December
2015 at 7.00pm**
Contact Pete Wragg
07767 608944



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

7.30pm to 9.00pm Scouts activities

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

7.00pm to 8.30pm Cubs activities

The Parish Council meetings take place on the first Wednesday of every month (except August) starting at 6.30pm

Thursday

7.00pm to 8.30pm Yoga class

Friday

Weight Watchers Friday 5.30-6.30pm

Sunday 6.30pm

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.

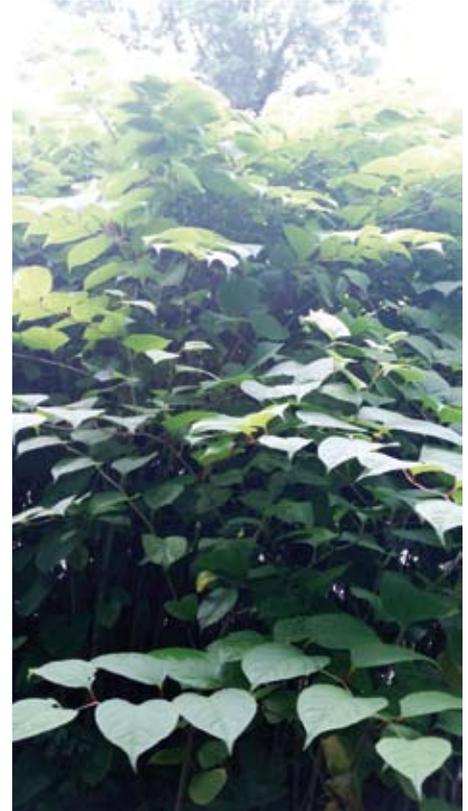
Check availability by contacting the Clerk at catcliffecouncil@gmail.com or on 07985 327377.

Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Action Group

Catcliffe & Treeton Flood Action Group carried out three volunteer days along the River Rother in the summer along with members of the River Stewardship Company. This involved clearing invasive, non-native plant species such as Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed that have spread rapidly along the river banks killing off the native plants and wildflowers. These plant invaders are shallow rooted so they don't bind the soil, leading to possible erosion of the riverbanks and flood defences.

The group would like to say a big thanks to everyone who helped out with the River Rother clean up. An amazing amount of Himalayan Balsam was removed thanks to a lot of pulling, chopping and slashing! Japanese Knotweed was also treated with herbicide.

Allowing any Japanese knotweed to spread from your land could



make you liable to third party litigation and/or civil prosecution. If allowed to escape onto an adjacent property an order could be served under nuisance legislation. Not disposing of Japanese knotweed in accordance with the Environmental Agency Code of Practice 2006 could easily result in spreading the knotweed and therefore breaking the law.

Invasive foreign plant species prevent our native plant species from growing, so we may lose the bio diversity that is so important for a healthy river and the insects, fish, birds and mammals that live in and along our river unless this work is undertaken.

If you want to volunteer to be involved in any future projects by the Flood Action Group please contact Garry Marsh garrym14@hotmail.co.uk or visit the website <http://www.facebook.com/friendsofcatcliffe> for further information.

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