

# CATCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

**SPRING EDITION 2024**



### **Where do we start?**

Our hearts go out to everyone who has been affected by the October floods. While it seems like the initial chaos of evacuations, support centre, and shock at how quickly everything happened has calmed slightly, we know what a long uncomfortable slog it is for people getting their houses sorted before they get back to some kind of normality.

As a Parish Council, there was little in the rescue and support operation we could be involved in, but we were pleased to be able to let RMBC use the Memorial Hall as their support centre along with other agencies to help residents. RMBC staff vacated the Memorial Hall at the end of February - contact details are on their website for anyone who needs flood-related support or skips for flood-damaged items.

The pavilion and playground on Poplar Way recreation ground were unfortunately flooded, along with Catcliffe Bowls Club, based at the pavilion. We are going through the same lengthy process as resident with insurers, loss adjusters, contractors etc. While we thought the playground would be an easy fix – quick clean, inspection and then open back up – this has proved more complicated as our insurers have struggled to find a contractor to give it the specialist clean it needs. We will let you know as soon as it is back in use.

One thing that has been lovely to see amidst all this disruption, is how our community has come together to support each other – whether it has been friends, family, neighbours, agency staff, community groups - to see people react and help others when they need it should make us all proud.



### **Farewell and Thank You!**

Big change here as Councillor DeVeaux resigned as both Chair and a Councillor over the Christmas period. His knowledge of Catcliffe, and years of experience as a Councillor really will be missed.

The Parish Council would like to thank Pete for the huge contribution he made to the area during his time as a Councillor, and wish him all the best for the future.

## Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre on 18th November was well attended as we kicked off the festive season early. Stall holders provided a broad range of goodies from crystals to homeware to dog treats and all kinds of things in between.

Our Parish Councillors got hands on providing refreshments and running the raffle, while our Clerk took the opportunity to consult with people about what they would like to see happening in the Memorial Hall so we can try to get funding for some of this to go ahead.

A special mention for the amazing performers from Jack's Theatre School who got everyone in the Christmas spirit – we absolutely loved it and can't wait to do more with you all this year!



## Events

We are planning 2 events in the Memorial Hall this year – a summer fayre on 7th July and Christmas fayre on 7th December. Details to follow on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CatcliffeParish/](http://www.facebook.com/CatcliffeParish/)

## Gentle Exercise

We have included in our 2024-25 budget the funds to continue our Gentle Exercise group which runs on Thursday mornings, term time, 10-12. Sessions are free and open to all, and start with a coffee and a chat, an exercise session run by Rotherham United Community Trust coaches, then more refreshments to follow.

If you fancy a bit of exercise, good company and a lot of fun, this group is for you. Just call in on the day, or contact Josie – [clerk@catcliffepc.com](mailto:clerk@catcliffepc.com) – for more information.

## Holiday Camps

Rotherham United Community Trust will be running their holiday camps in the Memorial Hall over the Easter and Summer holidays. Places can be booked online and are free to anyone on free school meals, with lunch provided.

We will update on our facebook page as soon as RUCT post details of the sessions and how to book on them.



## Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall is available for hire for parties on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. We also have Thursday evenings available in the hall for regular groups.

Please contact Josie – [clerk@catcliffepc.com](mailto:clerk@catcliffepc.com)





## Recreation Ground

17th February saw us braving the cold for a morning of tree whip planting on the recreation ground. The tree whips were kindly supplied by Cllr Firas Miro who helped to plant them. A big thank you to all the members of the community who came out and got muddy with us, and the RMBC team who showed us all where to plant – we can't wait to watch them all grow! This is the start of a few plans we have to make the recreation ground look better and improve the local environment, to be followed by bulb planting later in the year - watch this space for more!

Also improving the recreation ground we have the addition of some benches, with 2 supplied by our Ward Councillors – Amy Brookes and Firas Miro – and the third being a memorial bench. We are now able to offer local families the option to purchase an engraved memorial bench for their loved ones, to be installed on the recreation ground. Please contact Josie for more information about this – email [clerk@catcliffepc.com](mailto:clerk@catcliffepc.com)

## Highfield View Play Area

In our last newsletter we reported that the old damaged equipment had been removed from the play area, and we would try to source funding for replacements. We have just about done it!

This has been a real collaboration with Ward Councillors providing some funding, the Parish Council using all available spare funds, and Harworth Estates kindly landscaping the area.

There will be a nest swing, trim trail, and a few other bits of equipment, with a view to adding to this as we get more money. But the space should be open, usable and looking good for spring.

Thanks to everyone who has come together to make this work.



## Playgroup

Our lottery funded playgroup keeps on growing and now the weather is nicer we are able to open up our garden area for our little ones. In another example of our community working together, we used the last of our CLF funding from our Ward Councillors, and selection boxes donated from our local Morrisons, Asda and Tesco stores to hold a Christmas party with a visit from the big guy. Needless to say this was a very exciting morning!

Playgroup is on Wednesday Mornings, term time, 9.30 – 10.30 in the Memorial Hall and is free.

# CATCLIFFE PARISH COUNCILLORS

## Council Team Contacts:

### Councillors

**Garry Marsh (Chair)** – [garrymarsh@catcliffepc.com](mailto:garrymarsh@catcliffepc.com)

**Tony Bayliss (Vice Chair)** – [tonybayliss@catcliffepc.com](mailto:tonybayliss@catcliffepc.com)

**Wendy Green** – [wendygreen@catcliffepc.com](mailto:wendygreen@catcliffepc.com)

**Cameron McKiernan** – [cameron.mckiernan@catcliffepc.com](mailto:cameron.mckiernan@catcliffepc.com)

**Nigel Simpson** – [nigelsimpson@catcliffepc.com](mailto:nigelsimpson@catcliffepc.com)

### Staff

**Josie Huddleston (Clerk)** – [clerk@catcliffepc.com](mailto:clerk@catcliffepc.com)

**Mark Pickering (Caretaker)**

**Tina Downing (Caretaker)**

**Natalie Rebbeck (Playgroup Lead)**

## Councillor Vacancies

We still have vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you want to help your local community, and represent people from the area when making decisions on how Parish Council assets are run and what we do in Catcliffe, then get we'd love to hear from you.

Being a Councillor can take as much or little of your time as you choose. We have monthly meetings which usually last a couple of hours, and then Councillors get involved in events we run, and anything else depending on their interests and experience.

For more information either contact Josie – [clerk@catcliffepc.com](mailto:clerk@catcliffepc.com) – or come along to one of our meetings to see what we do.

## Register to vote

With local council elections coming up on 2nd May, and a General Election due at some point this year, make sure you get to have your say by registering to vote. This takes less than 5 minutes online – [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

As always, the Memorial Hall will be a polling station. Remember to bring relevant photo ID when you vote as this is now a requirement. If you don't have the required ID, you can apply online for a Voter Authority Certificate – [www.gov.uk/apply-for-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-id-voter-authority-certificate)

