

NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN & THE BIRCHES

A Newsletter for the Villages of Kings Thorn, Little Birch and Much Birch – January 2010 - First published in 1977

2010

2010

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody in the Community a very Happy, Peaceful and Fulfilling New Year.

2010

2010

Newsletter

Usually we print an appreciation to those who are involved with the production and distribution of this Newsletter on the back page, but I think they are worth a front page spread.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Thomas, our tireless Printer ably helped by Mike Leigh, Des and Rose Wathen and family and Dick Brimacombe for painstakingly collating over 500 copies between them, John Bryant and Dick Brimacombe, the News Gatherers, and the army of wonderful volunteers who deliver the Newsletter to your doors. Thank you all for a superb job.

Please keep your news coming in, John Bryant can be reached on 540316 and Dick Brimacombe on 540677 or you can send it direct to me. Please keep us posted on new neighbours so that we can print a welcome, of any special anniversaries etc., and particularly any news of our young people. We also welcome letters on topical local subjects, poems, and even adverse comments too!

New Year's Eve Party

Come and celebrate New Year's Eve at Little Birch Village Hall with party band SOFA, and Disco. Wear something glitzy and glamorous. It starts at 8.00pm. There will be a late bar and snacks will be available. Tickets are £5.00 each - accompanied

DIARY DATES – JANUARY 2010

31ST DECEMBER - New Year's Eve Party
12TH JANUARY – Whist Drive
13TH JANUARY – LBPC Meeting
19TH JANUARY – W.I.
22ND JANUARY – Village Market
23RD JANUARY – Flicks in the Sticks
27TH JANUARY – Riding for the Disabled Open Morning
28TH JANUARY – Gardening Club
29TH & 30TH JANUARY – Pantomime Robin Hood

ADVANCE DIARY DATES

20TH FEBRUARY – Save the Castle Pub Night
20TH FEBRUARY – Flicks in the Sticks

children under 16 free. For tickets phone: Adrienne on 01981 540885 or Nick on. 01981 540348.

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY** in Little Birch Village Hall We shall start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee is £1.50 excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

Flicks In The Sticks 2010 Season

Doors open at 7.00pm. All performances start at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall. Tickets £4 (£3 under 16s)

SATURDAY 23rd JANUARY— Very Annie Mary 15

Very Annie-Mary is a proudly Welsh film, celebrating the eccentricity of a small town in the valleys. Annie-Mary (*Rachel Griffiths*) is a 30-year-old woman trapped in gawky adolescence by the death of her mother and subsequent years of repression by her father, the Pavarotti-obsessed town baker (*Jonathan Pryce*). In a plot slightly reminiscent of *Little Voice*, she has lost her prize-winning singing voice, apparently forever. *A heartwarming & quirky comedy*

SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY — An Education 12A

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH — Fantastic Mr Fox PG

SATURDAY 17TH APRIL — Bright Star

Refreshments served from 7pm Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly 01981 541274

W.I.

The first WI meeting of 2010 takes place in Much Birch Community Hall on **TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY** at 7.30pm. The subject of the evening will be a Picture Quiz.

We have a varied programme for 2010 so there is something for everyone.

Meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382, or Jennifer Jones, 01981 540698 for further details.

Village Market

The first market of the New Year is on **FRIDAY, 22ND JANUARY** in Much Birch Community Hall, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Please join us in supporting local producers of beef, pork, chicken, duck etc. along with a baker, a seller of traditional cheese, and preserves. You will also find a wide variety of spices available.

There are a number of local crafts and miscellaneous stands selling scarves, Aloe Vera products, jewellery, bonsai and Fair Trade goods. These stands may vary from month to month.

Refreshments, take home baking and eggs are sold in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

If you would like further details of the producers etc. or, if you are a local producer and would like to sell at the Market, please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382 for a chat.

Riding for the Disabled

There is to be an Open Morning on **WEDNESDAY 27TH JANUARY** from 10.00am. to 12 noon.

If you miss being with horses, want to try something new or have wondered what goes on at an RDA group, please come along and chat to staff, volunteers and riders. We are in need of volunteers to either lead or walk beside riders on horses in lessons - a good way to have fun, keep fit and help provide pleasure and therapy for disabled children and young people.

Experience with horses is not necessary as full training is given.

You will find us at Holme Lacey College on the B4399 opposite the Primary School. We are situated in the big blue shed at the bottom of the car park. We look forward to meeting you. Tel 01432 870831

Bingo

There will be no Bingo at LBVH in January. The next **Special Bingo** will be held at Easter. Details will be posted in the newsletters.

Gardening Club

The first meeting of the new year is on **WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY** when Mr. Richard Fishbourne of 'Wiggly Wormers' will give an illustrated talk on 'Developing wild flowers and Wildlife in your garden'. New members always welcome.

Pantomime "Robin Hood"

will be held on **FRIDAY 29TH & SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY** at LBVH 7.30pm. Tickets Adult £7.00 Children £3.50 are available from **Hilary Gould - 01981 540322, Robyn Hodges - 01981 540264 and Jackie Morley - 01981 541027**

Pub Night

Save the Castle Campaign Committee (SCC) are holding a **PUB NIGHT** on **SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY** from 7.30pm. till 12 midnight at Little Birch Village Hall. Our Friendly Ex Landlord Nick will be running the bar and it will be great to see all our friends and neighbours together again. Any talented musicians or offer of raffle prizes would be most appreciated. Please contact Sandra Cameron on 540397 or Elaine Godding on 540607. More information to follow in the February newsletter.

Local News

A very warm welcome is given to two families who have recently moved into our community. SARAH and MARK BURTON with daughters, FLORA and POPPY have moved into HILLVIEW, Barrack Hill and DONNA and DAVID PALFREYMAN with daughters, MILLIE and HATTIE, and

dogs, BUSTER and ALFIE, have made their new home in the extended 'DANESWOOD'. We hope that both families will soon settle and enjoy living in this community.

The annual 'Shoe-box' appeal has again been very well supported and Betty Bryant would like to thank all those who have generously filled boxes with 'goodies' for children who probably only ever receive one such 'present' in their life. Boxes were also donated from Much Birch School and the W.I. In total, some 11,000 boxes were checked and packed at the warehouse in Hereford and were recently dispatched by lorry to children in the Ukraine.

Our thanks also go to SUE and BOB MASON for hosting the annual 'Carol and Christingle' Service in the barn at Merrivale Farm on Sunday 13th December. Although a bitterly cold and showery afternoon, some 25 children and 41 adults sang carols and heard readings and prayers from the children themselves. The collection amounting to £69 was donated to the Children's Society and 6 boxes from individual's homes were also received. Sixty Christingles were made and distributed and mince pies and mulled cider and soft drinks were enjoyed after the service, which was conducted by the new Rector, Rev. Mark Johnson.

Now is the time of year to watch out for the blossoming of the 'Holy Thorn' of which there are three, one at the bottom of the lane past the 'Castle Inn', the site of the original tree, one near the bus shelter and a third at the bottom of 'the Thorn' pitch.

The name 'King's Thorn' originates from the legend that King Charles always received a sprig of flower from the Glastonbury Thorn at Christmas time and that when he was staying in this area, the sprig or branch was later planted and gave rise to the original 'Holy Thorn' in Little Birch. As far as is known, all the others recorded in the county at Orcop, Tybberton and Staunton-on-Wye have died out.

The whole community was stunned to hear of the sudden death of our good friend, PAUL BISHOP at the age of 57 years. Paul was born in Hereford and had a sister, Jacqueline. Sadly, their father died when Paul was 18 months old. He was educated in Hereford and enjoyed cycling and camping with

friends in the summer months at Mordiford, on the banks of the river Wye. He was a real nature lover for the whole of his life and was never happier than when hay-making on his aunt Glenda and uncle Geoff. Turbut's farm near Ross-on-Wye. He trained as a painter and decorator, which was virtually his only job, although he did have a short spell as an adult carer in recent years. Paul would willingly help anyone in need and a few years ago looked after his neighbours George Evans and Bill Gibbons. Jan also helped the late Mrs. Cornelius at Cypress Cottage. Paul bought the cottage, known as 'Mid-Somer Cottage', Barrack Hill, in the early 1990's and when joined by Jan later, they both worked hard to make it a very attractive and comfortable home with an attractive garden of old cottage garden plants. Paul particularly loved dogs, cats and birds and was daily seen walking his spaniel dog, 'Captain', up and down the Barrack Hill. He was very well read, enjoyed 'quizzing' and particularly loved to read and compose poems. He had a wide taste in music but was particularly fond of the Beatles. Jan and Paul visited New Orleans for a holiday some years ago and thoroughly enjoyed the jazz scene there. He said that he would like to visit that city again, but sadly this was not to be. Paul was a very active member of the Village Hall Committee and one of the last tasks he carried out earlier this year was the tiling in the newly refurbished kitchen. Paul loved writing and produced two pantomimes at the Village Hall and also had a draft script for a third for 2010/11. He had a very easy going nature and had a particular rapport with children and young people and always with that welcoming smile. Paul's funeral took place on the 10th December at the Humber Woodland of Remembrance, Risbury, near Leominster. Over 100 family and friends attended, such was the high regard in which Paul was held. There was a typical photograph of Paul on the front of the service sheet with his ready smile and 'trademark' pipe. At the Celebration of Paul's Life, Jim Munson gave the Eulogy and there were readings by David Walker and Flora Freemantle. Cards were given out to everyone on which Paul's thoughts and sayings over the years were written and

everyone was invited to read out these in turn. 'Amazing Grace' was sung and Jim Munson played and sang Paul's favourite Beatles piece, 'Blackbird singing in the Night'.

Paul will be very sadly missed by his family and many, many friends and we send our sincere sympathies to wife, Jan, and her family and to Paul's sister, Jacqueline and her family and numerous cousins.

We are also sad to hear of the death of MR. DAVID BIRCH of Little Birch. David and Lavinia came here some three years ago and made a very happy home at Withycombe, where they lived quietly with their dogs. David's funeral and burial took place in the New Forest, Hampshire. We send our deepest sympathy to Lavinia and her family.

We also extend our condolences to Grant Baynham and his family following the passing of his mother, MRS. ALICE BAYNHAM.

Sandbags

Little Birch Parish Council has organised 20 sandbags to be stored at Little Birch Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome to help themselves to these sandbags, but please leave at least 6 for Village Hall use.

M.B.P.C

Report on meeting of 3rd December Planning

The planning inspectorate's report on Rangers Lodge was noted.

Correspondence

Parish Councillors had previously been given the correspondence list, the contents of which were noted.

Public Forum

A parishioner raised concerns over a ditch being blocked near Hollybush Lane opposite the Axe and Cleaver. The lengthsman would be contacted and asked to attend to the blocked drain /ditch.

Recycling Bins

Information given on understanding the yellow & red tags that may be attached to a person's recycling bin. Bins will be emptied but:

A yellow tag indicates that

1. the bin is not at the boundary of the property closest to the adopted highway

2. Recycling not put into the bin loose (e.g. in bags)
3. Bin contains items not specified for recycling

A red tag, where the bin has not been emptied, indicates:

1. A previous infringement as above
 2. Bin is broken and needs replacing.
- Whatever the colour of the tag there should be an explanation as to the problem.

Grit Bins

The Parish Council would remind parishioners that the grit bins are for the purpose of gritting minor roads and **NOT** for parishioners own use to grit their driveways.

Much Birch School

Much Birch school is on the list of schools requesting 20mph. schemes and is also on the list for consideration for parking restrictions. The clerk has been asked to contact Herefordshire Council to request a time limit for installation on 20mph and a date for when the proposed parking restrictions will be implemented.

Parish Clerk

If you have any queries on Parish Council matters please telephone the Clerk on 01432 870874 or write to: Mrs Kath Greenow, Hackford House, Dinedor, Hereford, HR2 6PD.

For more information on Much Birch Parish Council please visit our website www.muchbirchparish.org.uk

MB 100 Club Draw

The December draw took place on Saturday, 12th December at the Coffee Morning in MB Hall

The winners were:

1. No. 99 – Mr. C. Sherwood, Much Birch
2. No. 2 – Mrs. S. Clark, Exeter, Devon

The next draw will take place on Sunday, 10th January at 11.00am. in MB Hall.

John Jones, *Chairman/Promoter.*

LB Village Hall

The Management Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity during the past 12 months. Your support has helped raise funds for our much needed refurbishment project. We would like

to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LBPC

Report of the Little Birch Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 2009

No interests were declared.

Castle Inn Pub

Due to the high number of residents that attended, who were primarily concerned with the closure of The Castle Inn, it was agreed to discuss this item prior to the Parish Council Meeting. The outcome of which was; the organisation of a Public Meeting to be held on 17th November 2009 @7:30 in Little Birch Village Hall together with correspondence to be written and sent to the local planning officer, Andrew Prior and Cllr Richard Smith about the concerns. A petition of 520 names was presented to the Parish Council.

Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2009 were read and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

From previous minutes: Correspondence has been received from Greenways.

Village Hall

Quotations have been received for insulating the roof. An application is being made to the Lottery for further funding. Future fund raising events include a New Year's Eve party.

Parish Lengthsman

No further work completed.

Parish Initiative

A progress report has been received for current Parish Initiative defects. Clerk has contacted Herefordshire Council about the unsatisfactory response concerning the inspected wall which Little Birch Parish Council highlighted as 'in danger of collapse' but has received no response. All Parish Initiative details passed to Cllr Richard Smith to chase.

Parish Field – Acer Tree Services has completed works.

HALC Meeting

Report on Southern Area HALC meeting – To make comments on the new LDF which replaces the current UDP, Parish Councils must have a Parish Plan. This topic to be discussed during the next PC Meeting with an invitation to Lynda Wilcox to advise.

Any Other Business

Correspondence has been received from Herefordshire Council informing the PC that the cost of the Parish Freighter is to increase from 40.00 to 380.00.

LBPC is disappointed that the Communication Group with MBPC has ceased.

Dog Fouling

A resident has reported increased dog fouling in the area.

The Parish Precept to be set at 2300.00 for the 2010/11 financial year.

An increase of 300.00 towards potential election costs of 1000.00

Correspondence received from Merrivale Farm to be filed, stating their use of the green lanes.

Date of Next Meeting - **WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY**

Parish Clerk

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish. Contact details are: Liz Callwood 540081 or lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Crime Trends

On the 6th December a van parked outside a property in Kingstone was broken in to and thousands of pounds worth of power tools was taken. Police were aware of a possible suspect due to similar incidents in the past. A warrant to search the suspects address was obtained by PC BUNDY and the power tools were recovered as well as other possible stolen items. The Offender was arrested and remanded in custody and put before the courts the next day. The offender was found guilty and received the following punishments: 6month curfew with electronic tag, £480 fine, 12month community order, 100 hours unpaid work and a supervision order.

On the 8th December a goods lorry was broken into and large amounts of strongbow were taken. This happened in the early hours of the morning along the A49 at Callow. If you ever happen to see any vehicles or people acting suspiciously around lorries parked up in laybys please call the police to report it asap. Registration numbers of vehicles are very useful.

Overnight 8th to 9th December a fleet tipping trailer was taken from a rural

farm in Hoarwithy. Due to the time of year thieves are more active so please take extra care with locking property away. There are various property marking systems available to help deter thieves. Please contact any of us for more info.

Overnight 10th to 11th December a catering van in Much Birch was broken into, items were stolen and damage was caused. This is the 2nd incident we have had like this in the last month. Again please be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour as soon as possible.

A burglary occurred at Llandinabo where an insecure garage was entered and power tools were taken.

A burglary occurred at Kingstone where an insecure farm building was entered and a chain saw and a strimmer were taken.

Fuel was stolen from a stock lorry at Dinedor Village.

A Vauxhall Brava pickup was stolen from Kivernoll, it is believed that this vehicle may be linked to an offence where a stock trailer was stolen from Wormelow.

A Mercedes pickup truck registered number M792YPO was stolen from a field at the side of the A49 at Grafton.

A Robbery occurred between 9-40pm and 9-50pm on Saturday 12th December at the church end of Green Lane, Kingstone. The offender is described as a white male aged about 24 to 26 years old, approximately 6' tall, slim build with short dark hair. He was clean shaven with a chubby face. He was wearing a dark top and dark denim jeans. One distinctive feature was a tattoo on one of his hands between his thumb and forefinger. This was a small circle with eight lines coming out from the circumference, these lines being alternatively broken and solid a bit like a star.

If you think you know who this person is please call your local police team or crime stoppers.

Results

A 28yr old male has been interviewed about an assault that occurred at Wormelow. Enquiries are continuing.

4 youths from Kingstone have now been given reprimands for a burglary at Coldstone Cross, Kingstone. 2 other youths have been given formal anti-social behaviour warning letters in relation to the same incident.

A 35yr old male from Green Lane, Kingstone was arrested for a burglary. He was released on police bail for further enquiries.

A 36 yr old male from Wormbridge was arrested for harassment. He was given a caution.

A 20yr old male was arrested for criminal damage at Rotherwas. He has been released on police bail for further enquiries.

A 49yr old male has been given a harassment warning notice following an incident at Bullinghope.

Two 14yr old males are being investigated following a pane of glass having been damaged by an air weapon pellet at Twyford.

From Everyone on Hereford Rural South LPT - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Presence 2009

2009 marks the sixth year that West Mercia Police have run their Christmas Presence campaign during the festive period. The initiative is designed to put as many staff, both police officers and community support officers, on the streets on key dates, to ensure that the towns across the county remain safe places to enjoy the festivities.

In previous years there has been a noticeable drop in disorder and anti-social behaviour on the nights that Christmas Presence has been in operation, partly due to the deterrent effect of officers on the streets and partly because, being there, officers were able to deal with any incidents promptly as they occurred, thus preventing them from escalating into something bigger.

Supt Kevin Purcell, Head of Territorial Operations in Herefordshire, said, "This initiative is about preventing problems but also about giving reassurance. We want everyone to enjoy themselves over the Christmas and New Year period and have a great time. We'd like people to know that we will be out there on the streets to make sure the festivities go smoothly."

Key dates for the higher visibility of officers will be Friday 18th, Saturday 19th, Thursday 24th and Thursday 31st December. And it's not just police staff involved in Christmas Presence. Many of the partner agencies such as the Fire Service and Council Licensing Team will be working alongside police to ensure that pubs, clubs and taxis etc are

adhering to legislation governing their use, thereby maximising the safety of revellers.

Rural Crime Focus For 'Not In Herefordshire!'

December 3rd sees the re-launch of the successful 'Not In Herefordshire!' campaign, which this time concentrates on rural crime in its many guises - livestock theft, theft from farm buildings and of farm equipment, poaching etc. In this county, rural crime is not a large problem but we do suffer from it and wish to reduce it as much as possible.

The new initiative will see police patrols, particularly during the hours of darkness, looking out for those who target farms, smallholdings and other rural businesses with a view to stealing whatever they can lay their hands on.

Local policing teams will also be circulating posters and leaflets to rural communities, farmers and agricultural organisations to raise awareness. Reporting suspicious behaviour, vehicles and persons is paramount and speed is of the essence in this. The sooner we can all identify suspects, the quicker we can close the net on them. Reporting of crime is also being encouraged - as the police cannot patrol an area if we are unaware there is a problem there.

Your Local Representatives are

<u>East</u>		
JOHN BULBECK	-	540178
<u>Central</u>		
BOB PETERS	-	540670
<u>West</u>		
BETTY PHILPOTT	-	540614

New Year Resolution

What about making it a New Year resolution to have the Newsletter by email. We have 48 recipients now, an increase of 9 this year. This now saves £92 out of an annual spend of well over £1,000.

Receiving the newsletter via email saves paper, ink and time. Please consider it in order to help a little towards these savings. It is always possible for you to print out the important dates on some scrap paper at home.

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **JANUARY** issue via post to Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD, or left in the post box at

'Bramleys' or by email attachment in Word format to:

sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk by:

* * * * *
18TH JANUARY
* * * * *