

KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch & Much Birch – March 2010

Pop In

This month's meetings of Pop In at Much Birch Community Hall are on **MONDAYS 1ST & 15TH MARCH**. We meet for tea, cake and a chat. Everyone is welcome.

Ceilidh & Barn Dance Night

On **SATURDAY 6TH MARCH** there will be a Ceilidh and Barn Dance with "Silver Branch" and Compost Heap & Friends in Little Birch Village Hall from 7.30pm. till late. Tickets, including supper : Adults: £7.50 and Under 14's: £4.50 All proceeds to Little Birch Church funds.

Tickets available from:

James Gould (01981) 540676

John Bryant (01981) 540316

John Caton (01981) 540267

*****Book early to avoid disappointment*****

*Bar *Raffle *Fun For All!

An evening **NOT** to be missed!!

The Evergreen Club - AGM

is on **TUESDAY 9TH MARCH** at Much Birch Community Hall, commencing at 2.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Having elected our committee, dealt with a few other items and given details of this year's outings, we will close the meeting with a cup of tea, biscuits and a chance to chat.

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 9TH MARCH** at Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee is £1.50 Excellent prizes and

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH 2010

1ST MARCH – Pop In

3RD MARCH – LBPC Council Meeting

6TH MARCH – Ceilidh & Barn Dance

9TH MARCH – Evergreen Club AGM

9TH MARCH – - Whist Drive – LBVH

13TH MARCH – Little Birch Church Clean-up

15TH MARCH – Pop In

15TH/16TH MARCH – Rod Mason Jazz Band at RNCB

20TH MARCH – Flicks in the Sticks

23RD MARCH – Annual Quiz Night LBVH

25TH MARCH – Bingo

26TH MARCH – Much Birch Village Market

31ST MARCH - Gardening Club

ADVANCE NOTICES

19TH APRIL – Pop In

23RD & 24TH APRIL – Halfway Community Theatre

refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

Rod Mason Jazz - 15/16th March

For further information about the above please contact Marion Lyons at RNCB on 01432 376372.

Little Birch Church

will be having a 'Clean up' day, both inside and out on **SATURDAY, 13TH MARCH** from 10.00am. and any help will be most gratefully received, even if just an hour can be spared.

W.I.

The next meeting takes place on **TUESDAY, 16TH MARCH**, in Much Birch Community Hall beginning at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Ann Treloar whose subject is 'Gardening with a Difference'.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382 or Jennifer Jones 01981 540698 for more details.

Flicks in the Sticks

SATURDAY 20TH MARCH at 7.30pm — FANTASTIC MR FOX PG

Wes Anderson's first animated film tells the story of the best-selling children's book by Roald Dahl. Featuring the voices of **George Clooney, Meryl Streep and Bill Murray**, as well as a host of other well-known stars.

Tickets £4 (£3 under 16s)

Refreshments served from 7.00pm
Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly 01981 541274.

LBVH Annual Quiz Night

TUESDAY 23RD MARCH 7.30pm.
Your team should consist of four members and the entrance fee is £5 per team.

Please phone to book your team table by **Friday 19 March**.

Bookings: Robyn Hodges. Tel: 540264.

Bingo

On **THURSDAY 25TH MARCH** we shall be holding a Special Easter Bingo at Little Birch Village hall. Eyes down at 8.00pm. There are very good prizes, and refreshments will be served.

Much Birch Village Market

Much Birch Village Market is now in its third year and has become very popular with traders and supporters alike.

One of the original suppliers, who is very sought after, is **Tracy Westwood**, of **The Squeaky Pig**. Tracy and her husband rear Gloucester Old Spot and Tamworth pigs on their farm in Bosbury. The Squeaky Pig supplies pork joints, bacon, pork burgers and speciality sausage, made by Tracy. Gluten Free sausage can be made to order, and, speaking from experience, delicious it is too!

In addition to The Squeaky Pig there are suppliers of beef, chicken, lamb etc, cheese, bread and preserves. A recent addition to the market is an organic vegetable stall. You will also find a variety of gifts and greeting cards. There is a Fair Trade stand too.

Refreshments are mainly home made and sold in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

Much Birch Village Market takes place on the 4th Friday of each month, the next being 26TH MARCH, in Much Birch Community Hall, just off the A49 at Much Birch, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

For further details please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382.

Gardening Club

The AGM will be held on **WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH** at 7.30pm. in Little Birch Village Hall. The business part of the meeting will be of very short duration and will be followed by an illustrated talk by Janet Gwinnett and Helen Fox, describing their adventures while travelling through Uganda last summer.

Everyone is welcome and maybe it will encourage new members to join the Club.

There will be a 'Bring and Buy' Plant Stall at the March, April and May meetings. For further information, Phone Helen Fox 541004 or John Bryant 540316.

Halfway Community Theatre

We are pleased to announce that our next show 'TRIAL BY JURY PLUS!' will take place at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall on **FRIDAY & SATURDAY 23RD and 24TH APRIL**. Come and enjoy the G & S Trial by Jury! and a great celebration of an English St Georges Day. Tickets can be bought from Audrey Crowte on 01981 540432 from the beginning of March and as usual, the cost includes a hot supper and is £10 a head (£5 for under 14's). Don't forget to bring your own drink and a glass. We would urge you to book early as tickets are limited. We look forward to seeing you there. Tickets are limited. *Celia Brown*

Local News

Just as the last Newsletter was printed, the death of MRS. MARJORIE GARLAND (nee Cutter) was announced. Marjorie was born and brought up at The Follies in Little Birch, where Mr. and Mrs. Bibby ran a market garden and nursery, opposite the school. Marjorie attended Little Birch School and later, following her marriage to Bill Garland, was appointed assistant teacher to Miss Nellie Pritchard at the school in 1944. She gave up this post in 1948

but continued living at The Follies and both Marjorie and Bill are shown in the photograph of a New Year Party at the Village Hall in 1952. (See page 191 of the history book, "Little Birch on Aconbury Hill".)

Later, Bill and Marjorie moved to Grandstand Road, Hereford. Bill died some years ago but in recent years her health deteriorated and thanks to the help of her cousin, the late Geoff. Jones and a friend, Cath Evans, she was able to continue living there. She has been in and out of hospital over the last year and she died at the age of 88 years.

We send our condolences to her daughter, Pat, and her family.

Sadly, but peacefully, our friend, MR. HAROLD SALISBURY of Cross Keys, Withington, died after a short illness. Harold and his wife, Sally, judged at the annual show at the Village Hall over the last 10 years. Harold was an expert gardener but was always willing to share his knowledge and expertise. In the 1950's, he remembered driving cattle down the Whitecross Road to Hereford Cattle Market, difficult to visualise with the volume of traffic on that road at the present time. As he was 6' 5" tall, it was no surprise that he served in the Royal Military Police during his National Service, spending much of that time in Cyprus. He spent most of his working life at Wyevale and the Hereford Parks Dept. and was very well known in the city and beyond. This was reflected by the fact that Sutton St. Nicholas Church was absolutely full for the Service of Thanksgiving for his Life. Donations in memory of Harold were given to the MacMillan Nurses. He was a real gentleman and will be sorely missed. We send our sincere sympathy to Sally, daughter, Jane, son Ian, and their families.

MR. FRANK SHORT has not been too well recently and has decided to go into care. He is now in his 98th. year and has done extremely well with the kind help of

neighbours and friends. An update will be given next month.

LBPC Tribute to Bill Powell

Members of Little Birch Parish Council wish to pay tribute to the late Bill Powell, who was an active member of the Parish Council for some 16 years.

His dedication to the retention of a strong rural community was at the heart of what were often lively debates. He was a loyal servant to the community who always had the interests of the Parish at heart. It will be very difficult to replace such a strong and influential member of the Parish Council, however, a replacement will have to be found and if any members of the community feel that they would like to be considered for such a position, they have only to mention it to either existing Parish Council members or the Parish Clerk on 01981 540081.

LBVH Pantomime "Robin Hood"

Little Birch Village Hall Committee would like to thank writer and producer Hilary Gould, the cast and all the good friends who designed and made the scenery, produced posters and programmes, made costumes, did make up and provided the music for the much enjoyed "panto".

Thanks also to Lisa who organised the raffle and all the people who donated to it. The stage manager who ensured everything ran like clockwork also deserves special thanks.

We hope all those who attended enjoyed it as much as the committee members. The money raised will go towards the refurbishment (currently underway) of the Gents' toilets.

LBPC

Report of the Little Birch Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th January:
No interests were declared.

The minutes of the meeting, held on 3rd November 2009, were read and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

The Chairman paid tribute to Parish Councillor Bill Powell who died on 29th December 2009.

Village Hall – No further Management Committee meetings have taken place due to the snow.

The New Year's Eve Party was declared a huge success.

Refurbishment of Hall - A grant has been provisionally agreed from the Lottery towards the costs of insulating the Village Hall. A Contractor has been awarded work of the refurbishing the gents' toilets and work should start in February.

Parish Lengthsman – One day of clearing ditches, culverts and grips has been completed with a further day agreed.

Parish Initiative – Progress of outstanding work is required from Herefordshire Council. Further defects to be reported. Parish Councillors are to complete an annual check around the village and report back.

Parish Plan – The Parish Council wishes to progress with creating a Parish Plan and an initial meeting is to be organised.

The Castle Inn – A meeting took place on 5th December 2009 between John Dillon, Mark Haslam (Camra) and the licensee. Minutes of this meeting have been recorded and shared.

Planning Application

St Mary's Cottage, Little Birch – Extension and refurbishment to include new porch, two storey extension, removal of existing conservatory, improved dormers and renovation of roof – returned with no objections.

Notification received from Herefordshire Council for the Planning Application of Daneswood to be considered by Southern Areas Planning Sub-Committee on 25/11/09.

Planning Permissions

Daneswood, Little Birch for Proposed Detached Garage.

St Mary's Cottage, Little Birch – Extension and refurbishment to include new porch, two storey extension, removal of existing conservatory, improved dormers and renovation of roof.

Planning Refusal Appeal Upheld

The Cricket's Croft, Little Dewchurch for ancillary accommodation for elderly parents.

Any Other Business

The Parish Field to be discussed at next Parish Council Meeting.

A parishioner has drawn attention to the 'open' ditch entrance on School Lane.

Clerk to contact the Highways Department at Herefordshire Council concerning potential hazards on highway.

The SAM meeting on 25th January was attended by Mike Morley.

Date of Next Meeting - WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH

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

MBPC

Report on meeting of 4th February Bus Stop Request

Amey is dealing with the request for a further bus stop at the **Old Shop, Kings Thorn**. It has been proposed that the pole should be located in the verge on the opposite side of the road to the house named 'High Force' by the telephone box. It is proposed that this bus stop flag will state that the pick-up-&-drop-off of passengers will be on both sides of the road. In order to install this bus stop pole, written authorisation will be required from the landowner(s) stating that they have no objections to passengers waiting or getting off the bus adjacent to their land.

Bus Shelter at MB Church

Amey is dealing with the proposal for a Bus Shelter at Much Birch Church on A49 and has advised

the Parish Council that the Highways Agency has stated that it has a program of bus stop infrastructure upgrades for the A49, which will include bus stops on both sides of the road. This undertaking will include raised kerbs, footway reshaping and any road markings required. Verbal authorisation for the bus shelter has been given but written approval has yet to be obtained.

Highway problems in the Parish

Pot Holes A number of pot holes have appeared as a result of the recent bad weather and a request has been made to Amey for these to be repaired as soon as possible.

The Road Sign at the bottom of Barrack Hill has been damaged and needs attention, again a report has been sent to Amey asking it to take action.

The Parish Council wishes to express thanks to all those parishioners who helped the Councillors of Much Birch to spread grit on the roads during the recent bad weather.

Update of Parish Plan

There will be a Steering Group meeting in March to review the Parish Plan, the date and time of which is yet to be confirmed. Please see parish notice boards and Much Birch website for these details. If you would like to take part please come along and see how you can influence the future of the parish, whether it is planning issues, play areas, public transport or anything you perceive that the parish needs.

Planning

Supported Applications

Much Birch Community Hall – Proposed extension.

Lyndhurst, Much Birch - Addition of two dormer windows in the loft space of existing garage to make space to store and restore old motorcycles.

Correspondence

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

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 at www.muchbirchparish.org.uk

MB 100 Club Draw

(A fundraiser for the continued development of the Community Hall)

The February draw took place on Sunday, 14th February at Much Birch Community Hall at 11.00am.

The winners were:

1. No 90 – Mr. H. Watson, Wormelow
2. No 31 - Mrs. S. Mortimore, Kings Thorn

The next draw will take place on Tuesday, 9th March at 11.30am in Much Birch Community Hall

John Jones – *Chairman*

Newsletter Donations

Further generous donations to the Newsletter have been received recently and these are duly acknowledged with thanks.

Neighbourhood Watch

There has not been much activity to report from our patch over the past couple of weeks, thank goodness, but there are three incidents to note -

Sometime since the beginning of February, four hydraulic rams worth £3,000 each were stolen from outbuildings in Haywood.

The rams were part of potato machines, and would have taken some time to remove, and the thieves would have known exactly what they were after. Also taken were two electric fans used for cooling the hydraulic system, worth £500 each.

Between 2.00pm. and 3.00pm. on Saturday 13th, a group 4 rally car was stolen from a lay-by at Much Birch, where it had broken down.

It was a Ford Escort, blue in colour with a white flash along the sides, registration number **AOK133K**. It had silver wheels, front cobra seats and no rear seats. The vehicle had an immobiliser so a trailer was probably used to take it.

Finally, overnight on 14th/15th February, a bowser containing 900ltrs. of diesel was stolen from Ridgehill reservoir. This is a large fuel carrier, capacity 2000 litres, which is on a four-wheeled trailer and is towed behind a lorry or tractor. It was blue, with 'LEWIS' written along both sides. The chances are that once the fuel has been taken from it, it will be abandoned somewhere, so please keep an eye out for it.

Crime Trends

Four Electric fencing units and batteries were stolen from fields at Aconbury.

A white Landrover Defender was stolen from a car sales premises at Callow. The vehicle was driven over a low fence and down a bank directly onto the A49.

A premises at Watery Lane, Lower Bullingham has been entered on three occasions and a quantity of old catalytic converters has been stolen.

Results

A 48yr old male from Rotherwas has been arrested for grievous bodily harm and criminal damage. He has been released on police bail for further enquiries are to be made.

The above male was also arrested on a separate occasion at Holme Lacy on suspicion of driving under the influence of drink and drugs. He has been released on police bail for further enquiries.

A 23yr old male was arrested at Callow for drink/driving. He was charged and bailed to court.

A 58yr old male from Wormelow was arrested at Allensmore for drink/driving. He was released on police bail for further enquiries

An Improved Policing Response

The 1st February marked not only the start of a new month but also

the start of a more efficient policing structure in the county, which will provide a better service to the people of Herefordshire when they call for assistance.

Previously, uniformed response officers operated from the seven police stations across the county and worked in three sections - North (Leominster, Bromyard and Kington), Central (Hereford) and South (Ross, Peterchurch and Ledbury) and supervised by three Inspectors. Now, a single response team will cover the whole county at any one time, led by the Duty Inspector, with officers working from Leominster, Hereford and Ross police stations.

The Duty Inspector will have control of all county resources enabling a swift and more effective response, moving staff between stations on a daily basis if circumstances or demand dictate, thereby ensuring the most effective response to incidents. CID officers' duties have also been realigned to the shift changes to offer the optimum support for colleagues.

"This does not mean that there will be fewer officers on the streets or in your area - quite the reverse in fact," said Superintendent Kevin Purcell, the Division's most senior police officer. "By working in large teams we have the resilience to cover sickness and other shortfalls that we did not have previously. All areas previously patrolled will be covered exactly as before. Officers will just start their shifts with briefings at three stations instead of seven and will be allocated patrol areas to cover all parts of the county. They will remain on their allotted area for the day, unless the Duty Inspector needs to send them to another incident off their beat."

Local policing teams will remain unchanged and will continue to deliver the same excellent quality of service as before. Each day some local policing teams will be tasked to work an evening shift and deal

with incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) wherever it may occur across the county, thereby ensuring that neighbourhood problems do not escalate. Dealing with anti-social behaviour is high on the Division's agenda and local policing teams have been tasked with dealing with such activity robustly. The provision of an ASB team in the evenings will ensure that local policing is involved right from the outset and can resolve the problem more swiftly and effectively.

"The whole focus of these changes is to deliver a better policing product to the people of the county," said Supt Purcell. "As a Division, we want to deliver the best service we can and thereby ensure that confidence and satisfaction in the police remains high. We ourselves are confident that these changes will not only make a difference to our performance but, more importantly, will make a difference to the people we serve."

Safe & Secure

Monday 8th February marks the start of the Force's Internet Safety Awareness week. If you would like to know more about how to keep your children safe when they use the net, click on www.childnet-int.org/blogsafety or you can also look at www.thinkuknow.co.uk or www.westmercia.police.uk.

Volunteer Scheme Launched

Between 1st and 9th February, police in Herefordshire are launching their Volunteer Scheme, designed to encourage people with skills and talents to offer their services in a number of activities across the Division, in as many departments as possible. More than half a dozen people from all walks of life have already joined the scheme.

"We are actively encouraging people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and those who have retired to apply for the scheme," said Gabrielle Wright, Police Strategic Partnership Manager.

"Initially volunteers will be employed assisting our local policing teams, with surveys, phone calls and admin functions in order to increase public satisfaction and confidence. We hope to roll out the program to cover departments such as CID and Custody."

If you would like more information on the Volunteer Scheme, please contact Rosie Nunnery at Hereford Police Station on 0300 333 3000.

Your Officers based at Peterchurch Local Police Officer

PC 799

Andrew Bundy

Mobile **07855 385 844**

Community Support Officers

CSO 6173

Fiona Witcher

Mobile **07779 141 232**

CSO 6993

Kevin Powell

Mobile **07779 141 232**

E-mail

[herefordruralsouth.lpt@](mailto:herefordruralsouth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Answer phone - 01432 346756

Local Police Officer

Your Local Representatives

East –

JOHN BULBECK 540178

Central –

BOB PETERS 540670

West –

BETTY PHILPOTT 540614

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **APRIL** issue via email attachment in Word format to:

semathews@btinternet.com or by hand or post to Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD. by

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18TH MARCH

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Please mark your envelope
"Kings Thorn Newsletter"
