

KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

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

Riding for the Disabled

We are holding an open Morning for Voluntary Helpers on **WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL** from 10.00am – 12 noon.

Have you ever wondered what goes on at an RDA group? Do miss being with horses or would you like to try something new? Why not come along to our Open Morning, have a chat to staff, volunteers and riders and find out about RDA.

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

Art and Craft Show

On **SATURDAY, 8TH MAY**, Much Birch WI is staging an Art and Craft Show in Much Birch Community Hall. The show is open between 10,00am and 5,00pm. In addition to seeing some of the lovely work done by members, visitors will be able to sample refreshments made by the ladies of Much Birch WI. There will be a small charge, of £1 at the door, to help with expenses and to support our charity of the year, The Martha Trust.

We look forward to welcoming you to our show. For further details please contact Kath, 01981 540382 or Jennifer, 01981540698

The Evergreen Club

On **TUESDAY 11TH MAY** we are going to the old Somerset town of Frome. In the afternoon we visit

DIARY DATES FOR MAY 2010

28TH APRIL – Riding for the Disabled Open Day

5TH MAY – LBPC Meeting

8TH MAY – Art and Craft Show

11TH MAY – Evergreen Club Outing

11TH MAY – Little Birch Whist Drive

13TH MAY – PACT meeting

17TH MAY – Pop In

18TH MAY – W.I.

26TH MAY – Gardening Club

28TH MAY – M.B. Village Market

ADVANCE NOTICES

10TH JUNE – Public Meeting regarding a Parish Plan

15TH JUNE – W.I.

26TH JUNE – Violette Szabo VC

the attractive and unusual garden at Kilver Court where we have tea.

The cost is (which includes entries and tea) is £15 for members, £17 for visitors.

The number to ring is **01981 540932**.

The pick-up times are:

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Tump Lane (bungalows)	9.00
Tump Lane (middle)	9.05
Poor Clares Convent	9.10
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.15
M. B. Church bus stop	9.20
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.25
Perterstow (Broome Fm. lay-by)	9.35
Edde Cross Street Merton Hotel	9.40
Fontaine Court	9.45

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 11TH MAY** at 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.

Have Your Say!

PACT stands for Partners and Communities Together. It gives you the chance to tell your local authority, police team, and other local organisations about issues that cause concern in your neighbourhood, and how we can all work together to address them and make Herefordshire an even better place to live. Topics which come up include: *** Recycling *** Traffic speeding *** Dog fouling *** Local roads *** Litter and street cleaning *** Anti-social behaviour.

IF YOU DON'T TELL US, WHO WILL?

The next PACT meeting for Hereford Rural South is on **THURSDAY 13TH MAY** at 7.00pm. at Much Birch Village Hall,

Pop In

This month's Pop In at Much Birch Community Centre is at 2.00pm. on **MONDAY, 17TH MAY**.

Much Birch WI

The next Meeting of Much Birch WI is on **TUESDAY, 18TH MAY** at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Centre. It is the Resolutions meeting, when members discuss the resolution being put to the vote at the WI Annual General Meeting, this year being held in Cardiff. The WI is seen as an important campaigning group, drawing to the attention of the Government issues such as Food Labelling (country of origin etc.) and other important topics of concern to members.

The June meeting takes place on **TUESDAY 15TH JUNE** at 7.30pm. This meeting will be the Open Meeting when we will be hearing from David Baines about Mercy Ships. This topic, we hope, will prove to be of interest to a wide audience, both men and women, so visitors are welcome to come along to what should be a most interesting evening.

Gardening Club

The May meeting will take place on **WEDNESDAY 26TH MAY** at 7.30pm. in Little Birch Village Hall when Mr Humphrey Davies, a 'Top Fruit Specialist, will talk on 'All aspects of fruit production including propagation' and will answer any questions. New members always welcome. There will be a members' Bring and Buy plant stall. Further information from Helen Fox 541004 or John Bryant 540316.

Much Birch Village Market

The next market is on **FRIDAY, 28TH MAY** in Much Birch Community Hall, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm, when we hope you will, once again support us. The usual suppliers of local produce and Fair Trade items will be there, including **Jackie Limb, of Moor Meals**. Jackie raises Dexter cattle on the farm at Sollars Hope and makes delicious ready meals and pies ,

which she brings along together with beef sausage, joints of beef, steaks and mince.

A new supplier is Cake Angels, a company producing cup cakes and tray bakes for those with an intolerance of gluten, dairy products, nuts etc. A treat in store for everyone!

Refreshments are sold in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

For further information please ring Kath on 01981 540382.

Important Public Meeting

On **THURSDAY 10TH JUNE** **everybody** is invited to attend a public meeting to be held in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm. We will be discussing the creation of a Parish Plan for Little Birch (which could impact on neighbouring areas) and we **NEED** your help to do it! Have your say in the future of the village not only for yourselves, but for your children. If you want to ensure that current village life continues or if you want to see more facilities, then you need to contribute. If you don't, the Parish Plan could contain a vision that you may not want! A "Parish Plan" will "help all rural communities... to indicate how they would like their town or village to develop, to identify key facilities and services, to set out the problems that need to be tackled and demonstrate how its distinctive character and features can be preserved".

Lynda Wilcox will be presenting a talk on the need for Parish Plans and how to create one. Please be there and make sure you have your say in the future of our village!

Violette Szabo GC

Violette's tenth memorial gathering on the anniversary of her birthday and ten years since the museum was opened on 24th June, 2000, is at Carltrév House, Wormelow on **SATURDAY 26TH JUNE** at 2.00pm. If you might care to join us on this very special day, it would be

lovely! May I ask, if attending, you would kindly bring a plate of sandwiches and cakes which we can pool to make a super picnic. Also two garden chairs and a small folding table!!

I am also urgently looking for several kind people who might have a little time to give to help to tidy Violette's garden and surrounding green. It would be so wonderful to have some extra help also on the great day here at the Museum. So many last minute things cannot be put in place until that morning. I know so very many people are planning to come from far and wide to honour Violette on this very special occasion. Please contact Rosemary E. Rigby owner and founder of the museum - 01981 540477.

Local News

Hearty congratulations are extended to MAJOR HAIG of Hill Farm, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He planted fruit trees, blackcurrants and strawberries in the late 1950's and was a source of casual labour for local folk in the fruit harvesting season over many years. His wife, Anthea, was always a great support from the beginning and worked unstintingly with him. He kept the farm immaculately and was always looking to improve the quality of the fruit by judicious re-planting. He retired from active involvement in the day to day running of the farm a few years ago but this has not diminished his interest.

A few months ago, the Duke of Gloucester, Honorary Air Commodore, No. 501 (County of Gloucester) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force received Squadron Leader RICHARD WYLOR- OWEN upon assuming his appointment as Officer Commanding. Richard is the son of JEAN and MALDWYN WYLOR- OWEN of King's Thorn and was brought up here and educated in his early years at Much Birch School and then at Bishop's. We

congratulate Richard on this prestigious appointment.

A warm welcome is given to MARIA and CRAIG KEARNEY, who have come to live at High Force, King's Thorn and we hope they will be happy in their new home. Mrs. BARBARA EVANS, who lived at High Force, found the garden was becoming too much of a chore and has moved into Hereford. She was very keen on tennis and was also a member of gardening club and we thank her for faithfully distributing this Newsletter to a dozen neighbouring properties over the last 8 years or so. We wish her well in her new home.

It is sad to report the sudden death of EDWARD BINGHAM of Much Birch on 26th. March, at the age of 83 years. Edward and his wife, Joyce, came to live here some 30 years ago. He retired from the day to day running of his business near Birmingham but continued as a member of the Board. Edward and Joyce became good friends with the late David Enoch and Mary and the late Pat and Cliff Farmer. Edward was a committee member of the gardening club and was its treasurer for the first three years. He continued to collate and distribute seed orders for a further 4 years. He was a member of Probus in Hereford until the time of his death. His funeral service took place on 26th. March at Hereford Crematorium and was conducted by Canon Richard Bolland. Tributes were given by his daughter, Susan, and grandson, Matthew. Susan gave thanks for her parent's guidance throughout her life and the encouragement to study to obtain good educational qualifications and the ethic of hard work. Matthew recalled the playful nature and good humour of his grandfather and that he was always interested in their academic and sporting achievements. Edward will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends and particularly by Joyce, his daughters, Susan and Elaine, and

their families to whom we send our sincere condolences.

The funeral service for TREVOR WILSON of Orchard End, Tump Lane, took place on 9th April at Much Birch Church and was conducted by the Rev. Mark Johnson. These notes are taken from the Rector's address. Trevor was born in Kerry, Newtown, Wales in 1922. He was one of 4 children in the family and recalled going to school in a pony and trap. At the age of 14, he left school and went to work on his parents' farm. During WW2, he served in the Home Guard while continuing to work on the farm. Moving out from Wales during the war, he went to work on a farm with a friend near Highley in Shropshire. Just after the end of the war, he met Edna, who had been serving in the ATS. Edna came from Stainforth, near Doncaster and so when they married in 1947 it was to Yorkshire they went to start married life and Trevor embarked on gamekeeping. Having worked in Nottinghamshire for a while, Trevor and Edna were blessed with the arrival of 2 children, June born in 1950 and Roy born in 1952 and the family then moved to Oakwood, Kidderminster. In the early 1960's, they moved again to work for Sir Charles Clore on the Shenmore Estate shoot in the Golden Valley. The children completed their education at Kingstone High School and then June went into secretarial work, before going on to work with educationally challenging pupils and Roy went to Wiggin to do engineering before becoming a project manager in the oil and gas industry.

The shoot at Shenmore went from strength to strength under Trevor's management and he completed 40 years service in this role. When retirement beckoned, Trevor refused to go quietly and he kept on working well past normal retirement age partly because he loved his work and partly because

he was always happy out of doors with nature, come rain or sun. Meanwhile, 3 grandchildren had been born, and Trevor and Edna delighted in their progress as they watched them grow, change and take university courses and were proud of their achievements. Trevor and Edna sold their cottage which had been given to them by Sir Charles, having worked hard to renovate it, and in 1995 moved to the bungalow at the top of Tump Lane, which gave them a wonderful view over the countryside and a blessing for Edna's knees with no stairs with which to cope.

They settled into a life of gardening, whist drives and continued their support of Hereford United, through thick and thin. Over the last 18 months or so, Trevor's health gradually deteriorated and after several spells in hospital he died peacefully on 22nd March. Edna had given him the utmost care and we send to her and the family our deepest sympathy.

Well known local solicitor, GARY DAVIES, sadly passed away on 6th. April following a lengthy illness. Gary was born in Brecon in 1934 and was one of 3 brothers, who all studied at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Before university, he did his National; Service with the Devonshire Regiment. On his return, he joined a legal practice in Brecon and after a few years, moved to the town clerk's department in Newport, where he qualified as a solicitor. Gary came to Hereford in 1962 to join the late Sam Beaumont in his practice and then became a partner in Beaumont, Smith and Davies in Offa Street. He married Jenny (nee Page) and they were blessed over the years, with the arrival of Guy, Jessica and Rowena. Gary enjoyed fishing and shooting and always kept Welsh Springer Spaniel dogs. He was a friend of the late Basil Mullins and they had many days in the Aconbury shoot during the

season, usually finishing up at the Castle Inn. He was a Freemason and former chairman of the Hereford Conservative Association. He was a good friend to Little Birch Village Hall and drew up the first constitution, free of charge. He will be very sadly missed by a wide circle of friends and some 250 joined the family for his funeral service at Christ Church, Llanwarne on Tuesday, 13th. April, which was conducted by Rev. David Johnson. We extend to Jenny and the family our deepest sympathy.

It is good to report that MARILYN KAYE-ALLEN, AMBER and EWAN are now back at home from hospital after their horrific accident on the M6, when their car was crushed by a lorry. All of them suffered severe injuries with Amber being cared for in Nottingham and the others in Birmingham. Thankfully, they are all recovering well although mother in law, MRS. ALLEN, is still in Selly Oak Hospital having sustained broken limbs and ribs as well as injuries to her spine. We send our good wishes to them all.

L.B. Annual Quiz Night

On March 23rd thirteen teams gathered for Little Birch Village Hall's Annual Quiz. A range of topics was covered including some 'local' rounds and the competition was very keen. Throughout the quiz there were only a few points separating most of the teams but a clear winner, "No Hoppers", came through on the last round and were presented with a cup. Delicious refreshments were prepared to sustain us in the interval and altogether, a good time was had by all.

Press Release

The Much Birch Hall Management Committee is pleased to announce that during the next few months, construction work will commence on the building of a new

resource/meeting room to the south-west side of the Community Hall. The development is possible because it will be part funded by grants from Herefordshire Council Community Building Capital Grant Scheme and 'Welcome to Our Future', an organisation dedicated to sustainable development, which manages the Severn Waste Environmental Fund in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. Matched funding was raised by a number of fund-raising events organised by members of the Hall Management Committee such as the 100 Hundred Club and choir concerts etc The Halfway Theatre Group also donated £500 for which we are extremely grateful.

The Committee has recognised a need for this addition for some time and it will add to the other developments and improvements which have taken place during the last three to four years. The provision of this new room will enhance facilities for the Resource Centre and will meet a need for an additional meeting place for small group activities.

The last few years have seen improvements to the car park which is provided for the users of the hall, to the pavement outside of the hall, alteration to the driveway to the adjacent Rectory as well as a ramp constructed to the rear of the building in order to give easier access to the grassed amenity area. In addition the heating boiler was replaced and relocated, insulation in the roof space was upgraded and redecoration was carried out to some areas. All these improvements required great effort by the Hall Management Committee in putting the schemes together with the overall objective of providing a more welcoming and comfortable environment for the benefit of the community. John Jones – *Chairman*

MB Hall Car Park

During the construction work to the hall, there will be reduced parking spaces for users of the hall, although every effort will be made by the contractors to ensure that there will be as little disruption as possible in order to maintain the continuity of the hall's activities. Car drivers are requested NOT to park their vehicles on the pavement outside of the hall for the following reasons:

- It results in inconvenience and danger to pedestrians walking to residences beyond the hall
- Impedes free flow of vehicles, including large commercial lorries and emergency vehicles
- Causes damage to the pavement, underlying drainage pipes and manhole covers

Court Farm have once again very kindly agreed to allow limited alternative car parking in the vicinity of Court Farm packing house, which is approximately 50 metres past the frontage of the hall. The Hall Management Committee would appreciate car driver's forbearance and co-operation during this time.

MBPC

Report on meeting 1st April 2010

A49- Road Safety Issues

A letter is to be sent to Mr Ball, Assistant Director of Environment & Culture, concerning road safety issues along the A49 at Much Birch.

Update of Parish Plan

There will be another Steering Group meeting during June, date to be confirmed. Please see parish website for information & notice boards. Parishioners are encouraged to come along to this important meeting, which will influence the future of the Parish, including matters such as planning issues, play areas, public transport or anything perceived that the parish needs.

Correspondence

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

Highways issues in the Parish

There are a number of pot holes along Wrigglebrook Lane and Kings Thorn which need attention. The Clerk has been asked to report these to Herefordshire Council .

Next Meeting

This will be The Annual Parish Meeting on **FRIDAY 14TH MAY** at 7.00pm. in Much Birch Community Hall. It will be followed by The Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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 April draw took place on Sunday, 11th April 2010 at Much Birch Hall at 11am. The winners were:

1. No 59 - Mr. H. Watson, Wormelow

2. No.35 - Mrs. J. Hardy, Sellack
The next draw will take place at Much Birch Community Hall on Friday 14th May at 12noon.

John Jones - *Chairman*

Help Available

Free help and advice is now available to voluntary and community groups in the Golden Valley through an exciting new project called REACH. If you are involved in a new or existing voluntary or community group and would like support or advice to help with things such as finding funding & volunteers, training courses, community consultation, buildings & facilities, social enterprise start-ups, youth projects and much more, then the REACH team and Amelia may be able to assist you. If you would like to find

out more about how we could help your group, please contact:

- Amelia Quinlan at amelia@herefordshireva.org or on 07966 501733. Amelia is based in Hereford at Herefordshire Voluntary action and covers from Ross-on-Wye to Leominster.

- Vicky Barnes at vbarnes@herefordshireva.org or on 07827 775699. Vicky is based at St. Peters Centre in Peterchurch and covers the Golden Valley.

If you are interested in volunteering or are an organisation looking for volunteers then please contact Vicky Hamilton on 07827 775700 or email her at vhamilton@herefordshireva.org to find out more.

Volunteers

Because both Bob Evans and Keith Newman have moved away, the Newsletter is urgently looking for two volunteers to deliver it to households in the Barrack Hill (15) and the old Post Office (12) areas. Please contact John Bryant 540316 if you would be able to help.

Neighbourhood Watch Crime Trends

Catalytic converters have been stolen from vehicles at garage premises at Callow. The offenders have been using pipe cutters to remove the items. When taken from the vehicles they usually target 4x4's as they are easier to get under. Catalytic converters have also been stolen from garage premises at Orcop. The value of scrap metal is starting to creep back up which makes it more attractive to steal.

A heifer was stolen sometime between January and the end of March from a farmyard at Wormbridge.

Animal and Wildlife crime

Within the last month there have been reports of both sheep worrying and wildlife crime in the area.

At Dinedor a number of sheep were killed and others injured by dogs which had been left to roam on their own. This is quite distressing for the farmer and also has financial consequences.

Remember that if you allow your dog to roam and it is seen attacking sheep, the farmer has the right to shoot the dog.

In the Golden Valley area there have been reports of Buzzards being shot, this is an offence under the Wildlife Act. If you see any incidents of this nature please report them to the police.

Results

A 68yr old male from Peterstow was given a fixed penalty notice (£60 + 3 points), for exceeding the speed limit on the A49 Much Birch.

Grow Your Own Security

West Mercia Police is urging green-fingered residents to help weed out garden crime by reviewing and improving their garden and shed security. Although we are in a low-crime area, around 1,500 shed burglaries occur across the force area every year, with the spring time having a seasonal spike.

Many people leave expensive equipment in poorly secured sheds and garages, which are easy pickings for the opportunist thief. Later this month, thousands of seed packets will be distributed, packed not only with seeds but also loads of good advice on how to protect your garden equipment.

Most of the measures that you can take are quite simple. For example, if you have expensive lawnmowers and power tools, don't leave them in a shed when you could put them in a brick-built garage with better locks and security.

If you do want to increase the security around your shed, you can ensure you have a good padlock, hasp and staple on the door and that hinges don't have the screws showing - otherwise they'll remove the screws and hinges to open the door. You can also consider purchasing a small shed alarm which will activate, either on the

opening of the door or on detecting movement in the shed. These are reasonably cheap and found in DIY stores.

You can also use plants to protect your belongings. Consider using thorny hedging and prickly plants to deter burglars from entering the property and getting close to windows or drainpipes. Good external lighting can also put thieves off, who prefer not to be seen.

Don't give thieves a helping hand either. Make sure tools and other valuable items are locked away and not left lying around the garden. Ensure ladders are locked up and not handy for criminals to make use of. You can also property-mark your items, either by putting your postcode on them by etching or using paint or consider using a UV pen or UV chemical solution such as Smartwater or SelectaDNA.

Leaflets entitled "Tips To Nip Garden Crime In The Bud" will shortly be available from your local policing teams or at selected garden centres around the county. The brochure will be very useful advice on how to reduce garden and shed crime and keep your property even safer.

Are You A Special Case?

Do you have a few hours a week to spare? Would you like to give something back to the community and help ensure that Herefordshire remains a safe place to live and work?

Then consider joining the Special Constabulary. You are required to work just four hours a week and we'll give you all the training you require and a uniform. In return, you'll get to feel a real sense of purpose, meet some really interesting people and see life in Herefordshire as not many other people have the opportunity of doing. If you'd like to know more, please ring **01905 747174** for a chat or click on the force website at www.westmercia.police.uk/specials/. (Don't forget the last forward-slash!)

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**

Donations

We wish to acknowledge a generous donation of £10 from one of our readers. Thank you.

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **JUNE** 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 MAY

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**Please note
there are new
advertisements
this month.**