

# KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

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

## *Much Birch Village Market*

The next market is on **FRIDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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## *Whist Drive*

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** 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.

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## *The Evergreen Club*

On **TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** we have a scenic drive through the Forest of Dean to Usk for lunch. In the afternoon we go to Llancaiach Tudor Manor House.

The cost, which includes entry to Llancaiach, is £11 for members. At the time of going to print we have a waiting list for this trip, so do not

## DIARY DATES FOR JUNE 2010

26<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Gardening Club  
28<sup>TH</sup> MAY – M.B. Village Market  
8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – Evergreen Club Outing  
8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – Whist Drive  
10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – Public Meeting regarding a Parish Plan for Little Birch  
15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – W.I.  
18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – Midsummer Pudding Party  
25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – M.B. Village Market  
26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – Violette Szabo VC  
29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – Institute of Advanced Motorists Course  
30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – Gardening Club

## ADVANCE NOTICES

3<sup>RD</sup> JULY – Little Birch Church Fête  
7<sup>TH</sup> JULY – Little Birch Parish Council Meeting  
12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Little Birch Dog Show

anticipate being able to take visitors.

The number to ring with queries 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
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.35
Edde Cross Street Merton Hotel	9.40
Fontaine Court	9.45

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## *Important Public Meeting*

Please remember **ALL** are invited to attend a public meeting to be held in Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**. We will be discussing the creation of a Parish Plan for Little Birch (which could impact on neighbouring areas i.e. Aconbury) 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 i.e. shop, pub etc, 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, starting at **7:30pm**. Be there and make sure you have your say in the future of our village!

Refreshments will be provided.

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## **W.I.**

The **June** meeting of Much Birch WI is the **Open Meeting**, on **TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm.

David Baines will speak about Mercy Ships, a most interesting and informative subject. Mercy Ships are manned by volunteers, taking medical treatment to people whose lives can be changed by a relatively simple operation, for example, for children with a cleft palate. However, I believe it has a much wider remit than purely medical.

As usual, visitors are very welcome, especially to this, our Open Meeting.

For further details of Much Birch WI please contact either Kath on 01981 540382 or Jennifer Jones on 01981 540698

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## **Midsummer Pudding Party**

There will be a Midsummer Pudding Party night at Little Birch Village Hall on **FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** at 7.00pm.. There will be lots of scrumptious puddings to try and all for £5.00 for adults, £3.50 for children under 12. Come and eat as many as you can. Drinks will also be available.

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## **M.B. Village Market**

The Village Market takes place on **FRIDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall. As well as all the usual suppliers of meat, bread, preserves etc. I am asked to say there will be fresh asparagus from Carey Organic Farm, together with their usual variety of organic vegetables. For further details of the market, please contact Kath on 01981 540382

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## **Violette Szabo GC**

Violette's tenth memorial gathering on the anniversary of her birthday and ten years since the museum was opened on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2000, is at Carltrév House, Wormelow on **SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** at 2.00pm.

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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.

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## **Herefordshire Advanced Motorists**

The Hereford branch of the Institute of Advanced Motorists holds four 'Skills for Life' courses a year at Much Birch Community Hall.

The next course begins on **TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**. If you would like more information about the IAM, or to register for a course, please contact Mary Bevan on 01874 712267, or go to the web site, [www.advancedmotorist-hereford.org](http://www.advancedmotorist-hereford.org)

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## **Gardening Club**

On **WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**, a visit to 'The Laskett' has been arranged with a tour of the garden led by Sir Roy Strong. Numbers are limited, so please let the Secretary know if you would like to attend.

Members are asked to meet in the lay-by on the A49 opposite Laskett Lane at 6.30pm. sharp.

For further information, phone Helen Fox 01981 541004 or John Bryant 01981 540316.

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## **Little Birch Church Fête**

This will be held at "The Sycamores", by kind invitation of Gerald and Dot Skyrme on **SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY** from 2.00pm. There will be fun for all the family with Target bowls, Welly wanging, football hot shots and other competitions together with plants and vegetables, cake, book, bric-a-brac and bottle stalls and a **GRAND DRAW**. Hot Dogs and other refreshments will be available. This is a lovely site and is situated a few yards down the lane past Little Birch Church.

Offers of help and donations of prizes and loan of gazebos will be greatly appreciated

Further information from John Caton 540267 or John Bryant 540316 or any other PCC member. The PCC would like to publicly thank Helen and Chris Atkinson and their family, who have hosted and put so much effort into the Fete over the last 10 years. These have always been hugely successful and very enjoyable occasions.

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## **Little Birch Dog Show**

This is an advance notice that the Dog Show will take place on **SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** this year.

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## **L.B & M.B. Local News**

Our best wishes and congratulations are extended to Mrs. EDITH DAVIES, who recently celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup>. birthday with her family at home. Edith is still very fit for her age, enjoys crosswords, is a member of the Pop-in-Club and Age Concern at Orcop and attends the Methodist Chapel every Sunday.

Congratulations also to DEE and STEPHEN PRATT of 16 Tump Lane of the birth of baby boy on 25<sup>th</sup> April, a brother for twins Lewis and William.

Sadly, FRANK SHORT has been in hospital for several weeks and is now very poorly. Please remember him in your prayers together with a

number of others in the community who are in care or suffering with long term illnesses including VAL PRIME and RON POWELL also of Tump Lane who have been in hospital for the last 2 weeks or so, we wish them a speedy recovery and hope that they will return home soon.

This month sees the end of exams at university, college and schools and it would be good to hear of results when they become available and of subsequent aspirations.

A number of new folk are preparing to come to live in the community and we hope that we shall soon get to know them and that they will be happy in their new homes.

Several very generous donations have recently been received towards the cost of this Newsletter and these are gratefully acknowledged.

The Herefordshire Highways Dept. has been busy in Much Birch in recent weeks. One Third of Tump Lane has been tarred and gravelled and is much improved. Residents and others hope that it will not be too long before the remaining third is treated.

About a third of Hollybush Lane (the far end from the A 49) was coated with tarmac in April and is superb, but unfortunately the remaining two thirds still has numerous potholes !

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### ***Beetle Drive***

If you didn't come you missed a great night at the Little Birch Beetle Drive on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. All those who came said what fun it was and what good entertainment for all the family. No prior knowledge was necessary and the only requirement was to be able to shake a dice and draw a beetle – and some were beautiful! We hope to have another in the autumn so make sure you come then.

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### ***Lent Lunches***

Little Birch Church PCC wishes to thank all those who kindly attended the Lent Lunch in Little Birch Village Hall on 26<sup>th</sup>. March and gave so generously, £205, which has been sent to SightSavers International. Thanks also go to those who kindly made 4 varieties of soup and others who provided bread, butter, cheese, grapes, celery and tomatoes. It was a good opportunity to meet up with and old friends and catch up on all the news.

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### ***M.B. Hall Booking Secretary***

From 16<sup>th</sup> June, I will be giving up my position as Booking Secretary for Much Birch Community Hall. All booking enquiries from this date should go to John Jones (01981 540980) on a temporary basis, until a replacement is found.

**Do you know anyone who might be interested in this position?** It is a voluntary position and involves sitting on the Hall Management Committee and co-ordinating all Hall bookings. The use of a computer is also required. If you or anyone you know is interested in supporting their local community in this role, please contact me (01981 541274) or John Jones to find out more.

*Bryony Connolly*

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### ***LB Village Hall Car Parking***

Please could we ask that if any group wishes to use the car park at any time, they check with Jackie Morley on 01981 541027 beforehand that the hall is not being used. Also, thank you to those who have donated when they have used it.

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### ***Potholes and Other Road Defects!***

Herefordshire Council created the 'Parish Initiative' whereby highway defects can be reported through the Parish Clerk directly to the Highways department. Every two months, representatives from the Highways department then visit

Little Birch and inspect the reported defects to propose a plan of works. A number of potholes have successfully been filled, culverts and drains cleared quickly, either by Herefordshire Council or the lengthsman. If you notice any highway defects or obstructions within Little Birch, please contact Liz Callwood on 540081 or email [littlebirchpc@goolemail.com](mailto:littlebirchpc@goolemail.com).

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### ***Stop Dumping your Garden Waste!***

Little Birch Parish Council is trustee for a piece of land called the Parish Field located alongside Barrack Hill between Quarry Cottage and the footpath adjacent to Woodbury. Recently Little Birch Parish Council have funded maintenance of the trees along the highways border because of Health & Safety issues with electricity cables. The Parish Council are now looking to clear the area of all rubbish and overgrowth starting in the Autumn. The Parish Council would appreciate if locals would **NOT** dump their garden waste in this area and, when the area has been cleared, to support its uncluttered upkeep!

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### ***L.B.P.C.***

**Report L.B. Parish Council A.M. and P.C.M. on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May**  
No interests were declared.

**Minutes** of the Annual Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 were read and signed as a true record.

Mr. J. Dillon was duly re-elected as chairman although he made it clear that he did not want to be nominated for the following year. Mr. J. Dillon gave a summary of the Council's activities for the past year beginning with thanks to the contribution made by the late Parish Councillor, Bill Powell, and welcoming his replacement, Annette Whistler. The Chairman remarked on the leading local issues discussed over the past year, including the closure of the Castle

Inn, together with looking forward to future events of the possible creation of a Parish Plan with a Public Meeting organised for 10th June. He acknowledged the good work completed by the lengthsman and the Clerk and thanked Cllr. Richard Smith and CSO Fiona Witcher for their continued support.

**Annual Financial Report** - The Parish Council's books were available for inspection and the Clerk issued details of the 2009/2010 accounts. The balance available to the Parish Council for the 2010/2011 financial year is £768.48. The 2009/2010 figures were agreed by the Parish Council.

**Update on Village Hall** - It was reported that the Village Hall has had a very good year financially with fund raising activities and grants received. Several projects to further refurbish the hall have been completed, including replacement fire doors, insulation, upgrading the gents' toilets and the kitchen. After the huge success of this year's pantomimes, further plans are to hold more, although this has not yet been agreed due to the sad death of Paul Bishop, one of the main contributors. The Chairman expressed special thanks to Mike & Jacky Morley and Robyn & Adrian Hodges for their invaluable dedication to keeping the Village Hall going.

#### **Matters Arising**

**Village Hall** - The refurbishment of the gents' toilets is complete. Outstanding issues include cavity wall insulation and tiling of the hallway. The Beetle Drive was deemed a success although more parishioners would have been welcomed. Another will be organised with more advertising for later in the year. The next Pub Night is planned for 22nd May and three other parties are already scheduled, including New Year's Eve.

**Parish Lengthsman** - An invoice has been received for maintenance work completed around Higgin's

Well and Pendant Pitch. No further work is scheduled until the walkabout by the Parish Councillors is complete.

**Parish Initiative** - The latest spreadsheet is to be revised as part of the walkabout by the Parish Councillors.

**Parish Plan** - A public meeting has been organised for 10th June at 7:30pm at Little Birch Village Hall with Lynda Wilcox presenting.

**Parish Field** - Two quotes have been received for the clear out of the Parish Field. The Parish Council agreed to move forward with Mr. Usherwood's proposal.

**The Castle Inn** - Update on Herefordshire Council's visit to the Castle Inn re: Alleged Unauthorised Material Change of Use - Correspondence received from Herefordshire Council informing that the Castle Inn was revisited on 22nd March with the outcome of an extension to 31st May. Further reference was also made to the alleged unauthorised signs displayed around the village with a threat of possible prosecution.

#### **Planning Application**

**'The Crickets Croft', Little Dewchurch** - retention of existing buildings and continued use to provide temporary annex accommodation including the construction of a glazed link - DMCE/100547/F - returned with no objections.

#### **Any Other Business**

The Chairman welcomed Annette Whistler to the Parish Council and thanked Elaine Godding for her candidacy and for her work with local issues.

A 'History Walk' is to be organised around the 'old common'.

A request was made by Mr. M. Morley for the Parish Council to discuss the position of an Emergency Planning Co-ordinator during the next Parish Council Meeting.

A report was distributed by the Clerk, from Cllr. Richard Smith, summarising his and Hereford

Council's achievements over the past year.

**Date of Next Meeting**  
**WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY.**

#### **Parish Clerk**

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish. Contact details are: Liz Callwood 540081 or [littlebirchpc@googlemail.com](mailto:littlebirchpc@googlemail.com)

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#### **MB 100 Club Draw**

*(A fundraiser for the Community Hall)*

The May draw took place on Friday, 14th May at MB Hall at 12noon. The winners were:

1. No 78 - Mr. K. Davies, Much Birch
2. No.93 - Mrs. P. Powell, Lower Bullingham

The next draw will take place at MB Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 12noon.

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#### **Neighbourhood Watch**

##### **We Need Your Help**

Can you keep a look out for the following car-derived van, which has been in the St Weonards/Orcop area, calling at premises offering 'left over tarmac'. The vehicle is a white Ford fiesta, NA 06 \*JT. It is being driven by a white male in his late 50's with grey hair, sideburns and a moustache. He was wearing a fluorescent jacket and fluorescent trousers and had a slight 'gypsy' twang. He stated he was working at Orcop and had some tarmac left over, and would sell it at 'salvage' price. Trading Standards are after this individual, so any sightings, please let us know asap.

##### **Crime update**

Some good news to start with - here's another example of how the police and public can work together well in the fight against crime!

On Friday 7th May, a householder in Dinedor saw two males coming out of his neighbour's farm carrying a bike and a strimmer that they had just stolen from the property. He challenged them and managed to grab hold of one, while the other made off, leaving the stolen goods behind. The good neighbour managed to call 999, but then the lad he was holding onto also managed to get away. Still on the phone to police, the gent then gave chase on the bike that had been

dropped by the thieves, and gave a running commentary as to where the lads were heading. He then stopped at the top of a hill from where he directed the police to where one of the lads was running, and the lad was duly arrested! The other lad is still at large but hopefully not for long. Well done to that good citizen!

There was another break-in to a parked vehicle on Thursday 6th between 11am and 8pm at the fishing lakes at Allensmore, this time nothing was stolen, but the vehicle was damaged by the suspect when he smashed a window and cracked the windscreen while breaking into the vehicle.

On Friday evening at about 7pm, a businessman on the Thorn Business Park at Rotherwas disturbed 3 males rummaging around items stored outside his factory. They made off in a silver Ford Mondeo V90\*RJW - please be extra vigilant on the Rotherwas Industrial Estate as there have been a few incidents recently of undesirable characters hanging around.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April a Yellow Porsche Carrera which had broken down on the A49 at Much Birch was stolen whilst the owner went for assistance. The vehicle was distinctive in that it had a blue roof.

A specialist tractor was stolen from a field in the Pontrilas area.

At about 08-35hrs on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April a road rage incident occurred near to JCB Gunn on the Straight Mile. The offender tried stopping a cyclist and punched out at the rider. The offender was described as male white, 6 foot tall, stocky muscular build, short skin head type hair cut. He was described as having a tribal type tattoo on his right arm above the elbow. He was driving a royal blue 4x4.

If you have any information about the above incidents please contact the team or crime stoppers on 0800555111

#### ***Crime Is Down - Officially!***

2009/10 saw Herefordshire Division record less than 10,000 crimes in the fiscal year. "This is a fantastic result," said Superintendent Kevin Purcell, who is in charge of the Division. And it's not just crime in general that is dropping - anti-social behaviour is too!" We are working very closely with Herefordshire Council and other local partner agencies to address anti-social behaviour (ASB). Because we now have reduced crime, we are able to

concentrate on other issues that matter to you. We aim to achieve a further reduction in this area and make the county an even better place to live and work."

#### ***Bogus businesses***

We have been made aware that a company called "CMC" are calling older vulnerable people to arrange lifestyle assessments. Seemingly they have already taken £2,000 from someone for a walk in bath which they didn't need and has never arrived. CMC's telephone number is **01246 282878**. This has been looked into and OFCOM are investigating the number. Trading Standards are also aware so please be cautious when being offered such services.

Please also be advised that a security company calling themselves **EEC Security Services** have been telephoning numerous people in our area claiming they are 'in the area' next week and would like to call on individual addresses to discuss household security. EEC is known to several police forces for their hard selling techniques especially towards vulnerable elderly people. Please advise any 'older' family members and report any calls to us on: **0300 333 3000**

#### ***We Need Volunteers: So Get Involved Today!***

Herefordshire Police are recruiting more volunteers for their Volunteer Scheme, which was started earlier this year. So why don't you come along and get involved today! There are many benefits for the Police to have volunteers involved in the wider Policing family. Volunteers help the Police in serving the wider community and are part of that same community so everyone is rewarded by the scheme.

#### ***Cop Cards***

Finally, West Mercia Police have just launched 'Cop Cards' which is a brand new way of informing children about the work that police do in the force area, and are hoping that collecting the new cards will be a fun way for children to get to know their local officers and CSOs.

Cop Cards are a series of 25 playing card sized cards that carry pictures and descriptions of different policing roles throughout West Mercia. It is aimed at children aged 7 - 14 and the first 5 children in Herefordshire to collect

them all and produce them at a police station will win a prize.

The cards can be collected from front counters at any police station or by asking local community support officers. The cards are a limited edition, so children will only be able to obtain single cards at random on request. Cop Cards are designed for children to swap amongst themselves, and once all 25 have been collected, the reverse side of the cards forms a map of the force area.

So let the children in your family know about the cards, as Andrew, Kevin and I will be carrying a supply round with us and will give them out on request!

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

**Answer phone - 01432 346756**

##### **Local Police Officer**

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#### **Your Local Representatives**

##### **East –**

**JOHN BULBECK 540178**

##### **Central –**

**BOB PETERS 540670**

##### **West –**

**BETTY PHILPOTT 540614**

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#### **Items/Copy**

Please may I have items for the **JULY/AUGUST** issue via email attachment in Word format to: [semathews@btinternet.com](mailto:semathews@btinternet.com) or by hand or post to Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD. by

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**18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

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**PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO NEWSLETTER IN AUGUST**