

KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

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

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 29TH 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

Gardening Club

On **WEDNESDAY 30TH 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.

Much Birch WI

Following the Open Meeting in June members of Much Birch WI look forward to their trip to Stocktonbury Gardens on **THURSDAY 1ST JULY**.

Little Birch Church Fête

This will be held at "The Sycamores", by kind invitation of Gerald and Dot Skyrme on **SATURDAY 3RD JULY** from 2.00pm. There will be fun for all the family with Target bowls, Welly wanging, football hot shots and other competitions together

DIARY DATES FOR JULY & AUGUST 2010

29TH JUNE – Institute of Advanced Motorists Course

30TH JUNE – Gardening Club

1ST JULY – W.I. Outing

3RD JULY – Little Birch Church Fête

7TH JULY – Little Birch Parish Council Meeting

11TH JULY – Much Birch Church Gift Day

13TH JULY – Evergreen Club Outing

13TH JULY – Whist Drive - LBVH

14TH JULY – Gardeninc Club Outing

20TH JULY – W.I.

23RD JULY – Much Birch Village Market

ADVANCE NOTICES

10TH AUGUST – Whist Drive LBVH

15TH AUGUST – History Walk

17TH AUGUST – W.I.

27TH AUGUST – Village Market

3RD SEPTEMBER – Children's Annual Show Workshop

4TH SEPTEMBER – Annual Horticultural Show

12TH SEPTEMBER – Little Birch Dog Show

14TH SEPTEMBER – Whist Drive LBVH

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.

Much Birch Church Gift Day

is on **SUNDAY 11TH JULY**. There will be a Thanksgiving Songs of Praise Service at 6.30pm. that evening. Thank you for your support. Any queries please contact Sylvia Jones 01981 540980

The Evergreen Club

On **TUESDAY 13TH JULY** we are going to Kenilworth. There will be a guided tour of the re-constructed Tudor garden (£2 extra) and time to visit the old village. The cost is £14 (or £9.50 for English Heritage members). The number to ring with queries is **01981 540932**.

The pick-up times this month 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 Fm. lay-by)	9.35
Edde Cross Street Merton Hotel	9.40
Fontaine Court	9.45

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

Whist Drives

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 13TH JULY** 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 always welcome.

The dates for the next two Whist Drives are **TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST** and **TUESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER**.

Gardening Club Outing

The next meeting will be a visit to Bryan's Ground, Presteigne on **WEDNESDAY 14TH JULY** departing from the bus shelter 5.30pm sharp. Admission £4 concessions.

Refreshments tea/cake £2.50.

Further information from Helen Fox 541004 or John Bryant 540316.

W.I.

The next meeting is on **TUESDAY 20TH JULY**, in Much Birch Community Hall, at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Rosemary Prosser, whose talk has the intriguing title '*From Farm Records to Criminal Records*'.

New members and visitors are always welcome. For further details of Much Birch W.I please contact Kath, 01981 540382 or Jennifer, 01981 540698.

Much Birch Village Market

The next market takes place **FRIDAY 23RD JULY** in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

Peter Davies, who wrote, for his family, about his wartime recollections, and later had them published, will be with us again, with copies of his book.

Tracy, from The Squeaky Pig, has a back problem but, in order not to let down her customers, has a friend, Sharon, manning her stand. We hope Tracy is soon feeling better and can be with us in the not too distant future.

i have no doubt that Lynn, from Carey Organic Produce, will have a large selection of fresh fruit and vegetables. The double cream is delicious too, especially teamed with strawberries!

We look forward to seeing you on 23rd. Supporting local suppliers is important to the local economy and well being of this lovely rural area.

For further information about the market, please contact Kath, 01981 540382.

Evergreen Club

On **TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST** we have a scenic drive to Llandrindod Wells and then to Llandovery for tea.

The cost is £8 for members (£10 for non-members)

The pick-up times for August will be:

Fontaine Court	9.00
Peterstow (Broom Fm. lay-by)	9.05
Axe and Cleaver	9.15
M B Church bus stop	9.20
Tump Lane (bottom bungalows)	9.25
The Park, Wormelow	9.30
Tump Lane (middle)	9.35
Poor Clares Convent	9.40
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.45
Coach Depot Brandon	9.50

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

A History Walk

Come and join us to find out more about the old Aconbury Common as we walk round much of its perimeter as it was at the time of enclosure in 1824. The original common or wasteland covered parts of Little Birch, Much Birch,

Aconbury and Much Dewchurch parishes.

The walk will take place on **SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST**. It will start from Little Birch Village Hall at 2.00pm and we will return there for a delicious cream tea afterwards. Cost for the tea will be £3.50. The length of the walk will be about 3 miles on mostly roads or tracks.

W.I

TUESDAY 17TH will be our August meeting when the speakers will be Valerie Bingham and Joyce Hughes and the subject will be 'Men'.

MB Village Market

The Market will be from 2.30 – 4.30 on **FRIDAY 27TH AUGUST** when we hope our usual suppliers will be there.

Annual Horticultural Show

This will be held at 2.00pm. on **SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER** at Little Birch Village Hall. **Schedules are now available.**

At this time of year the preparations for our popular Horticultural Show are well advanced. We all look forward to this local, colourful, family event. It gets bigger and better each year. Little changes and slight adjustments each show keep it all fresh.

We have introduced a new Floral Art Section this year and have added 'A 'Plasticine' Flower to the Children's classes. Once again Janet Gwinnett will be running a Children's Workshop the afternoon before the show. This will be at Little Birch Village Hall at 4.30 pm on **FRIDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER**. This year all children entering the show will receive a packet of Sunflower seeds, courtesy of Wiggly Wiggles, who are very happy to encourage little green fingers.

To commemorate the 10 years we enjoyed with our popular Judge, the late Harold Salisbury, we have a new Trophy. The Harold

Salisbury Shield will be awarded to the winner of the Collection of 6 different vegetables.

We also have refreshments on sale, so you can join us for a drink and home baking together with a sit down and a chat. Then you will be ready for the prize giving and the auction of produce.

Exhibits can be brought to the hall between 9.00am and 10.45am and then the show opens to the public at 2.00pm. Look out for the schedule and plan your entries. We look forward to seeing you all there. Let's make it another record breaking year!

For any queries please contact :-

Children's Workshop - Janet Gwinnet – 540651

Club Chairman - John Bryant - 540316 or

Show Secretary - Gillian Clouder – 540080.

Little Birch Dog Show

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

L.B & M.B. Local News

MRS MARGARET BLYTHE of Tump Lane had a very enjoyable day on Saturday 12th June when she attended her son, Stewart's wedding to Catherine Fulton at Welsh Newton Church. The Best Man was Stewart's son Samuel. We wish the bride and groom a long and happy marriage.

Congratulations are extended to TESSA and KEVIN BOKOLE on the birth of their daughter, NATEFO, (known to the family as NATY), a sister for JO-JO and PHENYO and granddaughter to Sylvia and John SKLAN of Parish Lane.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of EDITH FLETCHER, erstwhile of King's Thorn, took place on 11th June at Much Birch Church, conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson. Readings were given by Henry Jackson, Simon Jackson and

Jonathan Seddon-Brown and solos were sung by Kizzy Jackson. A tribute was given by her niece, Liz Jackson, from which these notes were taken. Edith was born on 11th Feb. 1925 on the outskirts of Liverpool and was the middle child with 2 brothers making up the family. She was sent to a boarding school in Hertfordshire and obtained excellent results in the First School Certificate Examination. Sadly, her father died and she left school to teach Maths and English. She was a gangly tall girl with rather large feet but she played hockey and tennis extremely well. Edith then obtained a post in the Foreign Office and her first posting was to Nigeria. Subsequently, she was posted to Stockholm, where she became a very proficient skier. Later, she worked in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur and enjoyed dinner parties and playing bridge. Her mother then remarried whilst Edith was working in Dusseldorf. Her mother was widowed for a second time and so Edith came home and they lived together in Malmesbury, where Edith looked after her until she died. Edith then obtained her degree at the Open University and was a teacher over the years at several schools in London. In 1970, she developed diabetes, which was severe throughout the rest of her life.

In 1979, she came to live in Much Birch with her cousin, Col. Edmundson, who had previously had to have part of both legs amputated but managed to get around on prosthetic limbs. Edith moved to King's Thorn in 1981 and kept a series of 'rescue' dogs, of which 'Pepe' was the best known, as he roamed all around the adjacent parishes and had more than 9 lives. Edith enjoyed playing bridge and was a fierce competitor in solving 'crosswords'. Sadly, her sight deteriorated and she was almost blind in 1998. She was extremely well cared for, especially by Anna Doran from Wrigglebrook

and by her neighbours, Elizabeth Dinnen and Ken and Hazel Wilson. A few months ago, full time care became necessary and so she moved into 'Hazelhurst', at Kerne Bridge. She donated her body to medical science. She will be missed by many friends and family, to whom we extend our condolences. On the 29th. May, RON POWELL of Tump Lane, passed away after a lengthy illness. His funeral Service took place on 12th. June at St. David's, Much Dewchurch, which was conducted by the Rev. David Johnson. A tribute, written by ANDREW HELME, was read by Rev. Johnson.

Ron was born at Sollershope but when his father was offered the job as 'waggoner' by the late John (grampy) Helme in 1937, the family moved into Grove Farm Cottages on the Monmouth Road opposite the farm. Ron completed his education at Much Birch School and at the age of 14 began his farm work. He worked in the early years both on the Grove Farm and helped the late Tom Helme in his contracting business and later, became skilled in all operations on the farm. He was a good ploughman and often won the classes he entered in the local ploughing matches. Ron was also a good livestock man. His father died in 1974 but Ron continued living with his younger brother, Michael, in the family cottage. Michael later married Margaret Bowen of Church Farm Little Birch. He was an extremely good gardener and kept himself and others with fresh vegetables for most of the year. He finally retired aged 74 after serving at the Grove Farm for 60 years with 3 generations of the Helme family. He moved into a flat in Tump Lane and at first, was a bit apprehensive of living so close with neighbours. However, they all made him very welcome and soon became good friends. He had his new veg. patch and continued to help Mrs. Betty Helme with her garden. His health began to

deteriorate some 6 years ago and he was devastated by the sudden death of his brother, Michael. Despite all this he was always cheerful, had a ready smile and a dry sense of humour. The Helme family and his neighbours kept a 'good eye out' for him but eventually he spent several weeks in hospital and was taken to St. Michael's Hospice. Ron was a real countryman and loved all nature and it was appropriate that one of the funeral hymns was 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land'. His body was buried in the churchyard near to that of his brother, Michael. He will be sadly missed by his sister-in-law, Margaret, the Helme family, his neighbours and many friends in the farming world.

The passing of VALERIE PRIME of Tump Lane after a short spell in hospital was a shock to both the family and friends. Val's funeral service was held at Hereford Crematorium on Thursday, 17th. June, attended by some 70 family and friends and was conducted by the Rev. Mark Johnson. The poem, 'Death is nothing at all' was read by Mr. Michael Billingshurst and the Eulogy was given by her brother-in-law, Mr. Pat Mann. Val was born in Hereford and was one of four sisters. Pat first met Val when she went to stay at a relation's farm in King's Caple and he was holidaying at his grandmother's cottage. She was then aged 7. They next met up when she was 15 and they became good friends. However, she met Geoff soon afterwards and so began their courtship. Later, Pat married Doris, Val's eldest sister and they went to live in Ross on Wye. This situation helped the courtship as Geoff. came from the Newent area and Ross was sort of halfway house between Newent and Hereford.. During the WW2, Val joined the Women's Land Army. She and Geoff married in the 1950's and enjoyed many hilarious holidays with Doris and Pat,

particularly on Continental canal boats. In due time, Richard, Alison and John were born and Val devoted her life to them. Val and Geoff were proud of their achievements and when the grand children were born, they enjoyed great pleasure watching them grow up. Val was an excellent cook and there was a lovely photograph of her enjoying a homemade lemon meringue pie on the front of the funeral service sheet. Geoff suffered a stroke a few years ago and Val gave him the utmost care but earlier this year, her back gave out and they both had to go into respite care. They enjoyed the Meals on Wheels service again when they returned home but sadly, Val had to go into hospital for several weeks when her health deteriorated and she sadly never came home. Meanwhile, Geoff was well looked after by carers and the family and friends and her passing was a severe blow after 53 years of marriage. Val will be greatly missed by her family, neighbours and friends and we send to them our deepest sympathy.

FRANK GORDON SHORT was born on 12th September 1912 at Tupsley and was the youngest of three children, having a brother, Bill, and a sister, Edith. The family later moved to Litley Court, Hampden Park when Frank's father was appointed head gardener there. Frank attended St. Pauls School, left aged 14 and his first job was as messenger boy at a chemist's shop, at the princely wage of 7shillings and six pence per week (37.5p). His family left Hereford in 1928, when his father became head gardener at Eastnor. There was no work available in the Eastnor area and so Frank decided to join the navy as his brother, Bill, had already enlisted. He travelled to Bristol for an interview and medical check and the same day took the train to Paddington where he was met by an RSM, walked to Waterloo and then to Harwich by train to join the Boy's Training

Ship, HMS Ganges. The daily routine was rigorous and the weekly pay was 1 shilling (5p). Reveille was sounded at 4.30am. for a swimming test. Frank could not swim but was put in at the deep end and prodded vigorously to keep going. Breakfast was at 5.30 am followed by making the bed, cleaning up and a session in the gymnasium. This was followed by classroom and practical lessons on the art of seamanship, rowing, tying all types of knot, signalling and rifle drill. This initial training lasted for 9 months. Frank was then drafted to Plymouth to join HMS Berwick, a cruiser. The first tour was to Hong Kong via the Bay of Biscay (very rough), the Mediterranean, Malta, Suez Canal, Colombo and Singapore. Whilst on leave, he was able to visit the Great Wall of China. The tour took the ship all round the Japanese Islands and then back home to Plymouth. On leave in December 1929, Frank first met Daisy Cooke from Yew Tree Cottage, Little Birch at a Christmas party at Litley Court, when Daisy happened to be staying at a relative's cottage on the estate. Frank wrote to Daisy's parents for permission to write to Daisy while he was at sea. This caused some controversy as her mother was in favour but not her father and this perplexed Hubert Cooke so much that he forgot to post his pools coupon and it turned out that he would have won a substantial amount of money. However, they did become engaged on Daisy's 21st. birthday and Frank sent the engagement ring by post. Frank then went off on several tours to Africa and the South Atlantic, including taking supplies to Tristan da Cunha. He took a gunnery course at Devonport on 4.5 to 18 inch guns and passed with flying colours. Further tours all around the west and east coasts of Africa followed before he came home to Plymouth for a hernia operation and was in the Royal Naval hospital for 6weeks. He was given

leave and on 4th August 1937, Daisy and Frank were married in Little Birch Church and the late Frank Cooke, Daisy's cousin, was best man.

He was then posted to HMS Drake and again attended a gunnery school for updating on new guns. After a spell at Chatham dockyard where preparations for war were taking place, he joined the submarine HMS Forth at Dunoon where he was promoted to Petty Officer. He was very worried when war broke out, as Daisy had taken a flat in Plymouth. In March 1941, he joined HMS Victorious, a brand new aircraft carrier, at Barrow in Furness. Frank was responsible for training new recruits, many of the young boys found it very difficult, many suffered badly with sea sickness especially in the rough seas around the Pentland Firth.

The Victorious chased the German Bismarck with HMS's Hood and Norfolk and made the first strike against the enemy. Frank was engaged in the gunnery control tower firing at German aircraft. The Victorious then went on to escort the shipping convoys across the Atlantic to and from America and Arctic oceans to Russia. After the war, Frank was posted to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, where he was chief gunnery instructor and promoted to Chief Petty Officer. He trained cadets from all over the world and stayed until 1949. He served for 21 years and could have stayed on but it would have meant 2 and a half years on foreign tours and 2 and a half years based in UK. Frank decided to leave the navy as Margaret had been born and he wanted to spend more time with his family, especially as it expanded with the arrival of Robert.

His first job at home was with Hereford Council as a Rating Officer, then he joined Wiggins as a commissionaire. He later worked for Tarmac, checking loads of materials as they arrived for building the Ross by-pass and then

he worked as clerk at Freezer Fare on the Three Elms Trading Estate until he reached 65.

In retirement, Daisy and Frank walked all round the surrounding parishes taking flasks of tea and sandwiches and meeting many old and making new friends. They settled into Tump Lane when that was built and Frank remained there until a few months ago. He had been a Parish Councillor including the Chair for many years. When Daisy died in 1985, he was totally devastated as he had looked after her so well during her illness. However, he bounced back and continued running the Evergreen Club for some 10 years and was a leading light in the annual Evergreen Concerts. He was deputy churchwarden and a regular member at Much Birch Church. He was also a member of the British Legion and treasurer of the Hereford branch of the RNA for many years. He regularly attended reunions at Plymouth and Yeovilton.

To say that Frank enjoyed a party would be an understatement, he organised the annual Evergreen Christmas party and threw himself into it to make sure it was a success. He found great companionship with Olive, as they both loved dancing and having a good time. He went on many coach holidays with Alan at Golden Pioneer and the highlight was always the Christmas in Scotland. In recent years, his sight deteriorated and reading and writing became very difficult but he battled on and still sent out some 300 Christmas cards and he never forgot a birthday. His family, especially Robert and Karen, looked after him extremely well while other friends baked cakes and visited him regularly. He battled cancer in the throat and arm and Gill and Dick Brimacombe drove him to Cheltenham on numerous occasions for treatment. A few months ago, after a spell in the County, he decided to go into full time care at

Charnwood, where he was well cared for. Sadly, he was hospitalised after a few weeks there and remained in the County where his condition worsened and he passed away peacefully aged 97 years.

His funeral service was held at Much Birch Church on 18th June, where the congregation overflowed to the churchyard. It was conducted by the Rev. Mark Johnson and was attended by standard bearers from the naval associations of Hereford, Yeovilton and Plymouth and the local British Legion as well as many members of those associations. Relatives came from all over the country and one niece and her husband from Switzerland. Tributes were paid by his two grandsons, Matthew and Ian. Frank was very proud of the three grand children Matthew, Marie and Ian especially as they have all attended University.

He was buried with Daisy and given full military honours. The Remembrance Day citation was spoken by Peter Davies of the St. Weonards British Legion Branch and 'The Last Post' was played by Andy, an ex-regular trumpeter, from the Axe and Cleaver. Frank will be sorely missed by so many people as well as his family, to whom we offer our deepest sympathies.

There are still many friends requiring our prayers as they continue hospital treatment or are in full time care.

Steve, our Little Birch postman for some 20 years retires in August and it would be appropriate to give him a good send off party. Offers of help would be greatly appreciated. Please ring John Caton 540267 or John Bryant 540316.

Andy Watts and Fern

Following a 'trip of a lifetime' to the Bandhavgah tiger reserve in India Andy Watts, of Kings Thorn, was inspired to walk from Land's End to John O'Groats, accompanied by his fox terrier,

Fern (known to many people in King's Thorn and Little Birch!), to raise money for the charity Tiger Awareness and a small Indian charity, The Planet Era Foundation, which help support tigers in the wild through small, locally based projects in India. The charities work with local people in and around the tiger reserves, giving education and assistance to children, farmers and park rangers on living in harmony alongside tigers for the benefit and safety of both the people and the severely endangered tigers.

The walk began at Land's End on April 12th and ended, eight weeks, a fair few blisters and many wonderful experiences later, on 7th June in John O'Groats. After a brief bird watching trip over to Stroma, Andy and Fern, together with the home made cart used to transport his tent, food, clothes etc., took the train from Thurso, via several changes, to meet family and friends in Stoke-on-Trent, before being met by Dad, Peter, who brought him home to King's Thorn.

So far Andy has raised just over £1,500 for the charity. To date Andy has raised just over £2000 for the charity, £500 of which has been donated since his return to Kings Thorn.

Little Birch Pantomime

Janice Bishop has kindly loaned 4 scripts which Paul Bishop wrote to the village hall committee. It is possible that one of these may be used for this year's pantomime for which rehearsals will begin in the autumn. If anyone is interested in being involved please ring Jackie Morley on 541027.

The Castle Inn

A visit was made by the enforcement officer from the planning department at the beginning of June at the end of the extension period allowed for use of the restaurant area. They were satisfied that it was no longer in use

for domestic purposes and therefore the breach of planning rules had ceased but they will return at a later date and also to look at the outside space. The outcome is awaited.

Chalice Infill

Regarding the refusal of the Chalice Infill Planning Appeal by the Bristol Planning Inspectors, Ann and I would like to thank all who gave us such wonderful support. We were very touched to realise just how many very good friends we have in Kings Thorn and The Birches, with the resulting decision being a triumph for the village.

Ann and David Evans

Save the Castle Plant Sale

Thank you for coming to our plant sale at Kings thorn on 30th May and to those who donated extra plants. We raised \$106.50 for Save the Castle Inn Campaign Fund.

Sandra & Ros

MB 100 Club Draw

(A fundraiser for the Community Hall)

The March draw took place on Wednesday, 16th June at Much Birch Community Hall.

The winners were:

1. No. 38 – Mrs. McLeod, King's Caple.
2. No. 16– Mrs. J. Hounsell, Much Birch.

The next draw will take place on Friday, 16th July at 12 noon in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones, Chairman/Promoter.

MBPC

Report on the Annual Parish Council Meeting 14th May and Parish Council Meeting on 3rd June

John Jones was re elected as Chairman and Dave Davies was re elected as Vice Chairman

Parking Problems outside Much Birch Primary School

The Parish Council encourage all parents parking outside the school to drop off their children and then leave promptly to help alleviate

the congestion that is caused by parent's cars being parked for long periods during the start and finish of the school day.

Speed Indicator Device

Analysis of the information collected by the Speed Indicator Devices which is installed from time to time at four main sites, indicate the benefits in keeping traffic speed down. The vicinity of the school and the King's Thorn village remain a priority in the deployment programme of the SIDs. The Parish Council has, and will continue to seek, remedial measures to reduce the speed of vehicles throughout the parish.

Footpaths

Councillor Glen Sims and parishioner Mo Ross continue to undertake the regular inspection of all footpaths within the parish and ensure that repairs are carried out where necessary, resulting in the footpaths remaining open and are safe for use.

Parish Plan Meeting

There will be a Steering Group meeting on **FRIDAY 25TH JUNE** at Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm.

The first Parish Plan of Much Birch was completed in the Autumn of 2004 and is due to be reviewed in order to revisit matters such as planning issues, play areas, public transport and to consider for inclusion any other issues which will influence the future of the Parish. Parishioners are encouraged to come along to this important meeting and to take part.

Planning Appeal decision noted

The Chalice, The Thorn, Kings Thorn - erection of a detached dwelling with ancillary works.

Appeal dismissed.

Finance

The accounts for 2009/ 10 were approved & adopted.

The precept for the year 2009 to 2010 was £6,500 and was fully expended. in addition the lengthsman's grant from Herefordshire Council was spent in total on ditching and other allied

works. Donations were made to the Parochial Church Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard and to the King's Thorn and The Birches Newsletter.

Correspondence.

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

Next Meeting

THURSDAY 1ST JULY at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

Please note there will be no parish council meeting during August and the next meeting will be **THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER**

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

Neighbourhood Watch

Crime Trends

Between 4.30pm on Thursday 10th June and 7.30am on Tuesday 15th June an Ifor Williams trailer was stolen from a farm at St Owens Cross. The trailer was a 12' x 6.6" flat bed with no sides attached, and had been left in an open yard – another reminder to keep your trailers well secured as they are always a popular target for thieves!

Have a Safe & Secure Summer!

West Mercia is a safe place to live and burglary figures remain low. In fact, less than one per cent of homes are burgled each year and we are working hard to reduce this figure even further.

Most burglaries are carried out by opportunistic thieves and up to half are committed by thieves who enter the house through an unlocked door or an open window.

With the advent of hot weather, West Mercia Police is reminding residents to be vigilant and follow a few simple steps to significantly reduce the chances of their home being broken into over the summer months and while away on holiday:

- Ensure doors and windows are locked at all times.
- Fit sturdy deadlocks (British Standard BS3621) to all external doors
- Use timer switches to turn lights on in the evenings while you are out
- Ensure newspapers, post, milk etc are not left on display
- Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your home while you're away
- Don't forget your garden! Effective garden security includes defensive planting and well-kept fences and will help keep your home secure

Finally, if you have been trying to call Kevin or Fiona on their team mobile, unfortunately the phone has broken and they have been unable to switch it on. It has gone for repair, so in the meantime please use either the main 0300 number or try PC Bundys phone. Alternatively, send a message on our team e-mail.

House Burglary Is Down

The records show that Herefordshire Division has seen a drop in house burglary. Information shows that in the 6 years since the 2003/4 performance year, there has been a 61% fall in the number of burglaries, and 15% fewer than 2008/9.

"This is a fantastic result," said Superintendent Kevin Purcell, who is in charge of the Division. "As the graph shows, house burglary in Herefordshire has been coming down steadily. Further proof, if it were needed, that we are living in one of the safest areas in the country.

"We are working very closely with Herefordshire Council and other local partner agencies to address house burglary. Because we now have less crime to investigate, we have more quality time to look at other issues and through education, and other activities with our partners, can come up with solutions that already have seen the levels of house burglaries drop

making the county an even better place to live and work."

Anti-Social Behaviour Is Down

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has dropped by 15% so far this year. This is due to a change in shift patterns that ensures local policing teams are on duty when they are most needed, which is generally late shifts, 2pm till 10pm. They are supplemented by their response colleagues whose shifts cover 24 hours per day seven days a week.

We have managed this by using resources effectively and reduce levels of ASB. The short term approach is to highlight target offenders who are involved in ASB or highlight vulnerable people or hotspots where this is occurring. We can use resources to find the causes of the problems via communication, liaison and building relationships in the community. Ensuring that we problem solve in the appropriate areas. The longer term approach is selecting priority policing areas based on the results of a previous crime and safety survey. Then we use a diverse range of data including: police data, data from Partners and Communities Together (PACT), Mosaic information, partnership data from Multi agency tasking and co-ordination meetings and crime and safety surveys have. This gives us a better understanding and allows us to make improvements at a local level.

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@westmerciam.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
JULY/AUGUST 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

* * * * *
18TH AUGUST
* * * * *

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

**There are new
advertisements in this
issue.**

WANTED

Good home given to tabby kitten, long
or short haired. Please telephone
540274

Monet Landscape Centre

At Pengethley Garden Centre

Come and visit our landscape centre for all your
landscaping needs.

Materials including stone, paving, gravel,
fencing, gazebos, stone garden ornaments, bird
baths, turf, stone pots, benches, rocks, paving,
trellis, water pumps and accessories, and much
more. **Delivery service available.**

Now stocking **children's play equipment**,
including swings, trampolines from £99, sandpits,
play tables, climbing frames etc.

Fishing tackle in stock now!

We also offer a complete landscaping service
from design to construction and maintenance.
Come and view our extensive portfolios and
wander round our beautiful water gardens.
Open 7 days a week.

Tel: 01989 730710

www.waterfeaturespecialists.co.uk

E Mail@ monetukltd@aol.com

LOCAL BUS 411 - Wednesdays only

The 411 bus to Hereford operates on Wednesday mornings, returning at lunchtime. From Wormelow it runs via Much Birch, Kings Thorn Road, Little Birch Road, New Road, Pendant Pitch, Barrack Hill, The Thorn and Kings Thorn bus shelter. It can be hailed at any suitable point along its route through the area.

10.06	Wormelow, Tump Inn	13.20	Hereford, Country Bus Station
10.07	Wormelow, Tump Lane	13.28	Hereford, Broad Street
10.12	Little Birch, Castle Inn	13.41	Kings Thorn, Bus shelter
10.18	Kings Thorn, Bus shelter	13.46	Little Birch, Castle Inn
10.31	Hereford, Bridge Street	13.51	Wormelow, Tump Lane
10.38	Hereford, Country Bus Station	13.52	Wormelow, Tump Inn

These are the officially published times, but the bus can run up to 15 minutes early. Note that on its return journey the bus stops by request only – tell the driver where you want to alight. The service is subsidised by Herefordshire Council.