

NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN & THE BIRCHES



A Newsletter for the Villages of Kings Thorn and The Birches - December 2010

A very Happy Christmas to all our readers

DIARY DATES – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

27TH NOVEMBER – Gardening Club Pruning Demonstration
1ST DECEMBER – Gardening Club Christmas Social
2ND DECEMBER – Little Birch Christmas Bingo
8TH DECEMBER – Light up a Life
14TH DECEMBER – Little Birch Whist Drive
17TH DECEMBER – Much Birch Village Market
18TH DECEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks
21ST DECEMBER – W.I. Christmas Festivity
30TH DECEMBER – Farewell Party
31ST DECEMBER – New Year's Eve Party

ADVANCE NOTICES

TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY – Whist Drive Little Birch

Gardening Club.

A pruning Demonstration will take place on **SATURDAY. 27TH NOVEMBER.** at Treberva Farm, Much Birch by kind permission of Mr. George Snell. There will be pruning of apples and bush and cane fruits, with members also having the opportunity to participate. Meeting time on that morning to be advised.

The Annual Social will take place on **WEDNESDAY 1ST DECEMBER** at 7.30pm. in the Village Hall, when the usual menu of Cottage Pie (or Vegetarian Option) will be served followed by Apple Pie. This is always a fun evening. Please bring plate, dish and cutlery and your own drink.

LBVH Special Christmas Bingo

THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER at 7.30 for 8.00pm. Excellent prizes and all are welcome to join us for this evening of festive fun.

Light Up A Life

You are invited to attend a special Wormelow Hundred Benefice **Light up a Life Service** at St. Mary & St. Thomas à Becket Church, Much Birch on **WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER** at 6.30pm. Dedication forms to enable you to have a light lit for a loved one and their name listed in the Book of Memories will be available in all the churches in the Benefice, St. Michael's Hospice or on line at www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk.
St. Michael's Hospice Registered Charity Number 511179

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive at Little Birch Village Hall is on **TUESDAY 14th DECEMBER**. We shall start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee is £1.50. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

And looking ahead to January Whist at LBVH will be **TUESDAY 11th JANUARY**.

Much Birch Village Market

The December market takes place on **FRIDAY, 17th DECEMBER** when we hope to have all the usual stall holders just waiting to provide your Christmas 'goodies'. The Market takes place in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our suppliers during the last year and look forward to your support for the Market in 2011.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

Flicks in the Sticks

SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Centre — **THE GHOST 15**

A ghostwriter, hired to complete the memoirs of a former British prime minister uncovers secrets that put his own life in jeopardy. Starring **Ewan McGregor** and **Pierce Brosnan**. 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 580298

Much Birch WI

On **TUESDAY 21st DECEMBER** it is the members' Christmas Festivity.

Michelle Tydeman

Our practice nurse is retiring. We will be holding an afternoon tea party on **THURSDAY 30th DECEMBER** from 3:00 – 5:00 at Much Birch Community Hall. *We hope that all those of you who know Michelle will be able to join us for this occasion.*

Drs Davies, Johnson, England And Seftel.

New Years Eve Party

Little Birch Village Hall 'Mad Hats and Glad Rags' with 'SOFA' + Disco. Bar & refreshments from 8.00pm. onwards.

Tickets in advance: Adults £5, children £3. Contact: 01981 540885 or 01981 540348. Get your tickets before Christmas for that early discount!

WI

Much Birch WI hold their meetings on the third Tuesday of each month in Much Birch Community Hall. Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

We have enjoyed a very varied programme this year, which culminates in the members' Christmas Festivities as above.

The 2011 programme is in the process of being completed at the time of writing and I would like to thank Barbara Wilson for all her hard work in contacting probable speakers on our behalf.

If you would like details of Much Birch WI please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382.

Local News

Congratulations are extended to MARY and DENNIS PRITCHARD of 'Amberdale', Wrigglebrook and WENDY and ROBIN BERKELEY of Parish Lane, who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries. We trust that both couples will enjoy many more anniversaries.

After having two boys, Oliver and Archie, the Langford family at Church Farm, Little Birch, are delighted to announce the arrival of JESSICA ROSE on 15th November. Mother and daughter are doing very well and we send our very best wishes to CLAIRE and JAMIE and the family.

Congratulations also go to KATE TURNER, daughter of Linda and Steve Turner of Hollybush Lane, who recently became a graduate member of the Institute of Legal Executives after five years of study. She passed her final examination with a Distinction in Family Law. She has been with Gabbs Solicitors for seven years and is currently working as a Lawyer in the Family and Matrimonial Department. Well done, Kate!

A very warm welcome is given to ELLA and RICHARD GREEN, who have recently moved into St. Mary's Cottage and we hope they will be very happy in their new home and in this community.

DANIELLE MARSH, erstwhile receptionist at the Surgery, and PHILIP WATKINS of the Gillow Farm, were married at Hentland Church a few weeks ago and we send them our best wishes for a long and happy marriage.

As mentioned elsewhere, Sister MICHELLE TYDEMAN is retiring after serving the community for over 20 years as Practice Nurse at Much Birch Surgery. There will be a party on 30th December to say "Thank You" and wish her well in her retirement.

Several weeks ago now, Princess Anne visited Holme Lacy and the 'Riding for the Disabled' unit. The visit was reported together with a photograph in the 'Hereford Times'. Unfortunately, HEATHER WATHEN did not feature in that photograph but she was introduced to the Princess and the family have a lovely photograph of 'the handshake', of which they are very proud. Heather has worked tirelessly for the unit for many years, as has CELIA BAKER, of Hollybush Lane. We congratulate both on their fine record.

Sadly, CLARE ATKINSON of 'Hampden House', Little Birch Road, died on 18th October, at the age of 89 years. Clare was born in Kelona, Canada and on the outbreak of WW2 joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He flew Catalina bombers and at one stage was posted to Co. Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. He was not actually flying on the day in question, but his colleagues happened to spot the German cruiser, 'Bismarck', which had escaped temporarily through the fog, from the chase of the British navy, and successfully torpedoed her. Clare also spent a posting at RAF Locking, near Weston super Mare. After the war, he returned to Canada and worked in a bank. He could not settle in this job and asked his father if he could go farming in England. Some friends of the family got in touch with the Powell family at Newton Farm, Belmont and Clare was invited to come and stay. So began a friendship that has lasted for over 50 years and it was most fitting that Mr. Derek Powell gave a tribute to Clare, outlining his

early years in Herefordshire. Clare spent about six months at Newton Farm and then looked after cows and livestock on several other farms. It was when working for Mr. Sidney Andrews at Sutton St. Nicholas, that Clare met Sylvia, who was working as a Milk Recorder. They were married in July 1951 and went to live in a cottage at Brockhampton. In due time, Jane and Chris were born here.

Clare had always wanted to have his own dairy farm and so the family moved to White House Farm, Vowchurch and again, in due time, Jonathan and Rosamond were born. After 5 years or so at Vowchurch, and with the larger family to support, Clare sold the farm and joined Sun Valley Poultry in 1964, being appointed Cold-Store manager. The family moved to 'Hampden House' in 1965 and Clare set about creating a large vegetable garden to the rear and lawn and borders to the front. This took a lot of hard work as the whole plot was on a steep slope. In 1972, Clare was appointed Scout Leader for the Much Birch Troop, which met at the Memorial Hall, King's Thorn and led the Troop with great energy and enthusiasm for about 15 years. Many of the young men in this area have said how much they owe to Clare for the training and guidance, which he gave to them in their formative, teenage years. Clare stayed with Sun Valley until he retired in 1987 and then returned on a part time basis as a factory guide for visiting parties. He had always kept himself very fit and at the age of 65, completed the Hereford Half Marathon just to prove to himself that he could do it. Being a keen gardener, Clare became a member of the KT and LB Gardening Club, when this was formed in 1984. He served on the Committee for 10 years and worked very hard behind the scenes in so many ways. He was always first there to set up for the Annual Show and acted as steward for the Fruit and Vegetable Judge on many occasions. He also involved the Scouts in the mini Agricultural Show, which started in 1977. In fact, the whole family have been very supportive of village activities.

Sylvia and Clare were faithful members of Much Birch Church, where Clare did sidesman duties for many years. He also

loved to play indoor bowls and was a member of HARA and Wormelow Indoor Bowling Club for many years. Clare's funeral service took place on 27th October at Little Birch Church and was conducted by Rev. Keith Blackburn. The Church was full with family and friends, such was the high regard in which Clare was held. After Derek Powell's reflection, Jane gave her tribute to her father. Her first memories began when she was able to walk and always wanted a story. Clare would relate his encounter with a grizzly bear when he went exploring in the mountains near his Canadian home and this was repeated over and over again to her brothers and sister and the grandchildren as they were growing up. Only in later years did they find out that the story was not strictly true but he did have a pioneering and adventurous spirit in his younger days. He was always an 'outdoors man' and took the family on many outings, including a visit to Weston super Mare and the re-opening of the pier in the 1950's. He was a great provider and in the garden grew so many beans that many were given away, "Enough to feed King's Thorn". When the children were making their way in the world, he supported them all the way, even if he did not agree entirely with what they wanted to do. Over the last few years, Clare looked after Sylvia so well that, with his non-stop care, she was able to stay at home until a few months ago. He then became ill himself and was cared for at the Old Rectory until he had to move into West Bank as well.

On the Order of Service, there is a lovely photograph of Clare with his 'trademark' smile. The service was followed by internment in Little Birch Churchyard. Clare was a loving husband and devoted father and grandfather and we send to Sylvia, Jane, Chris and Helen and their children, Melanie, Luke and Rhys, Jonathan and Sally and their children, Ben and Evie, and Ros and her children, Charlotte and Nicholas, our deepest sympathies. Clare will be sorely missed by the family and so many friends.

The death of DENNIS HANDS at the age of 86, erstwhile of King's Thorn, has also been recorded. Dennis with his wife, Betty, lived in Aconbury Close since the mid 1960's at 'Mayhill Lodge', which he designed

himself. Dennis was an architect and was with Hereford Council for many years and then joined the firm of Scriven, Powell and James as principal. In the 1970's, he did the drawings for the King's Thorn Bus Shelter. Dennis was the driving force at Wormelow Cricket Club during the 1970's and 80's, serving as secretary during a difficult time for the club, when many feared it would not survive. It then went on to become established in the then newly-formed Hereford and District cricket league. Dennis was born in Gloucestershire and grew up to be a very correct batsman. At Wormelow, he became one of the club's heaviest run-scorers and was an excellent close fielder. He was also a long standing member of the Whitecross Squash Club. A hip-replacement curtailed playing cricket and squash so he then took up golf, with typical enthusiasm. At the age of 80, he was honoured by being made President of Wormelow Cricket Club. Dennis did meticulous drawings of more than 150 churches and buildings in Herefordshire and the ones at New Mills and Rowston's Barn are mentioned in the Local History Book, 'Little Birch on Aconbury Hill'. Dennis also gave an illustrated talk to 'The Forum' group in the 1980's. Dennis and Betty moved to Cornwall about a year ago to be near their son, Michael, and his family. We send to them all our sincere condolences.

The death of OLIVE SAYELL has just been sadly announced but her funeral has not taken place before this Newsletter is printed and so a tribute will be given next month.

A number of generous contributions towards the production of the Newsletter have been received over the last few months and these are gratefully acknowledged.

Make 2011 the year of change

On behalf of everyone at Little Birch church, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a very prosperous and peaceful 2011.

Please be assured that the people and parish of Little Birch are continually being prayed for, and this will be the case throughout the coming year.

In a few weeks, we will once again be making those New Year resolutions. As is often the case, however, many - perhaps even most - will end up being broken. This may be because things have cropped up that we didn't expect, or that we needed to break the resolution to get over a particular hurdle that life may throw at us.

As Churchwarden, I am very pleased that St. Mary's Church, Little Birch has been around for a long time, and I'm hoping it has provided help and succour for so many villagers past and present, but in order to secure our long-term future in an increasingly challenging era, we do need your continued help and support in 2011.

Over the past few years, we have done our best to ring the changes and have really tried to make the church more relevant and accessible to folk.

Please may I encourage you to consider attending on a regular basis in 2011.

Monthly schedule of services in 2011.

***1st Sunday of the month** - Parish Communion 11.00am in Church. (A communion service to start off the month).

***2nd Sunday of the month** - Morning Worship 11.00am in Church. (A short informal service taken by someone other than the vicar!).

***3rd Sunday of the month** - Benefice service. 10.00am in a church. (A communion service which rotates around the seven churches in the benefice. Check magazine for details).

***4th Sunday of the month** - Morning service 11.00am Methodist chapel. (The church has strong links with the chapel, so we join forces at the Chapel on this Sunday).

***5th Sunday of the month** - 9.15am CW communion at Much Birch or 11.00am BCP communion at Fawley Chapel.

(Whatever takes your fancy - modern or traditional - we have it a short drive away).

Oh, and please don't worry about screaming kids. At little Birch we love them.

Our new in-house **Kidz-Zone** area has loads of toys to keep them entertained while you enjoy the service. We look forward to welcoming lots of you in 2011.

Faster Broadband Services

BT is in the process of increasing the speed of Broadband services throughout the UK by introducing fibre optic cables. This should increase Broadband speeds from the current 8mbs. up to 40mbs. which will enable a much improved service for all, regardless of which company actually provides your current internet service.

The Wormelow telephone exchange is not currently on the schedule for improvement as it covers less than 1000 premises. However, if business and residential users in the Wormelow Exchange area wish to see improvements we are being invited to vote for our community to become involved. If you are interested in ensuring we don't get left behind you can log on to www.racetoinfinity.bt.com and vote for BT to include us in their improvement programme.

Save The Castle

The web-site has been resurrected and is now managed by Alex Godding. We have the latest information from the council and photos from the last Pub Night. Let's get together and celebrate village life! Post your thoughts.

Pub night

Around 100 people dropped in at the Pub Night held at Little Birch Village Hall on 6th November. It was great to meet up with people whom we don't so often get the opportunity to see now. About £300 was raised towards the Castle Inn Action Group. Many thanks to all those who came and supported us and also to the Silver Branch and Beccy Cameron who entertained us so well with their music.

Hereford Cathedral's Secrets

Penny Platts gave us a fascinating and well-supported talk in Little Birch Village Hall on 21st October. She began by telling us of the foundation of the cathedral, which is secular, although the date of the first building is not entirely clear. A Saxon building preceded the present one which was built by the Normans in Romanesque style and with 'peapod'

carvings. Much of this remains but the Lady Chapel is later – transitional period - and the west end dates from 1920s, a replacement for repairs after the collapse in 1786. Before this the nave had extended to the pavement.

We were then taken on a virtual tour of the inside of the cathedral visiting various tombs and looking at many other items with many an interesting tale on the way. The shrines of St Ethelbert and St. Thomas Cantilupe were shown, the former became an attraction for pilgrims from the 800s and the latter from 1320. Some of the tombs (which are of former bishops and local notable people) suffered damage in the Civil War when the cathedral was used as a stable but were saved the worst excesses by Col. Birch who said ‘we are not barbarians’. Bishop Audley’s chantry chapel still has painted decoration on the stonework and Penny emphasised how the whole cathedral was filled with bright colours before the Reformation, supposedly to give people a view of heaven.

Our virtual tour included many other items of interest such as the eagle lectern, the new corona in memory of Bishop Eastaugh, the altar table, Stephen’s chair (dated 1138, he declared himself king in Hereford), the organ, refurbished with money from Bulmer’s, the bishop’s seat and the misericords dating from the 1300s. We were told that a new decorated metal screen had been installed for the International Exhibition in 1862 but was removed and returned to maker in 1967 to open up the high altar. It is now in the V and A. There is some medieval stained glass remaining but most is newer, we were told we could recognise the medieval as the faces were in semi-profile and eyes looked out of the corners! The Chapter House with magnificent fan-vaulted ceiling fell into disrepair and was demolished after the Civil War as lead was removed from the roof.

The chained library, modelled on the Bodlean, was originally in the Lady Chapel which was closed in the Civil War. The library was removed to the room above the porch in 1841 then installed in the new building in 1996 along with the Mappa Mundi, re-located from its insignificant cupboard in the north aisle. The chained library contains books dating from the 8th century. The Mappa Mundi, dating from the

1300s, was a probable teaching aid and possible marketing tool for the canonisation of St Thomas Cantilupe, and is now one of the major attractions of Hereford.

This was an incredibly informative talk and beautifully illustrated. It will certainly encourage us to go and have a look for ourselves.

LBPC

Report of Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 2010

No interests were declared.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2010 were read and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Village Hall – Several successful events have taken place including the Postman’s Retirement Party and Historical Talks. Eight new whist tables have been purchased and the insurance which now covers historical walks is to be paid by Direct Debit over 12 months. Events included a Historical Walk on 25th November. Still to come are Christmas Bingo on 2nd December and the New Year’s Eve Party.

Parish Lengthsman – No further work to be completed until next year.

Parish Initiative – No further defects reported.

Community Led Plan – Steering Group Meetings were held on 15th September, 6th October and 17th November where Sophie Pryce (Community First) described in detail the Planning for Real event.

Parish Field – Justin Usherwood to be contacted as none of his previous contact details are still relevant.

Emergency Planning Coordinator – Mr Morley attended the Parish Council Resilience Co-ordinator Event and gave feedback with a recommendation that an emergency plan is to be created and published within the Community Led Plan. All Parish Councillors agreed.

Planning - Planning application for Bromley Court, Hoarwithy for the construction of one new poultry unit, to include control room and two feed bins - DMS/102576/F – returned with no objections.

Any Other Business

CSO K. Powell informed the Parish Council that there was no recorded crime for Little Birch however there have been scrap metal, fuel and farm machinery thefts from surrounding areas.

John Penrice has agreed to fulfil the role of Internal Auditor and complete intermittent audits throughout the financial year.

Parish Councillors were given a copy of the Newsletter Accounts and all agreed to pay the annual payment of £200.00.

Mr Morley attended the HALC AGM & SAM Meeting and recommended that Little Birch Parish Council continues to subscribe to HALC. All Parish Councillors agreed.

The external auditors (Mazars) have completed the annual audit for 2009/10.

Correspondence has been received from the Ramblers Association concerning footpaths LB17 & LB19. Mr Dillon (Footpaths Officer) will investigate.

There have been a number of rumours about the reopening of The Castle Inn pub. Clerk to send an email to Anthony Bush and Lisa Hughes for further clarification.

The Parish Council agreed a precept of £2300.00 for the 2011/2012 financial year.

An email has been received from Pixley Parish Council requesting support for their issue of limiting the maximum speed limit throughout Herefordshire to 50mph. Clerk to reply that Little Birch Parish Council does not support this initiative.

Clerk to reply to Herefordshire Council's email that there are details within the 1df consultation with which the Parish Council does not agree.

Date of Next Meeting –

WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2011

Parish Clerk

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish. Contact details are: Liz Callwood 540081 or littlebirchpc@goolemail.com

LB Parish Steering Group

Report of meeting held on Wednesday 17th November 2010.

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th October were read and signed as a true record.

Grant Application - The grant application with complementing paperwork has been sent via email.

Feedback from newsletter advert - No response has been received from the newsletter advert requesting youth volunteers. Cat Roberts (CLP Youth Engagement Officer) to contact local schools and brownie group. Also, Cat to email details of contacts for play/activity companies to entice locals to the Planning for Real Event.

Planning for Real Event - Sophie Pryce (Community First) discussed the planning process in detail and left a support pack. The Steering Group agreed that the initial date for this event of the 3rd week of Jan 2011, (22nd or 23rd January) is not achievable with all the preparation needed. New dates of 5th and 6th March 2011 were agreed.

Date of Next Meeting:

THURSDAY 6TH JANUARY 2011

Much Birch 100 Club For 2011

It is almost six years since the launch of the 100 club and we are proposing to run it again during the next 12 months. The aim continues to be to raise funds for the development of the hall for the benefit of the communities of Much Birch and the surrounding areas.

I would like to start with a huge thank you to those of you who have contributed so far by subscribing to the 100 Club over the years and I do hope that you will continue your membership during this next year.

During 2010 we were able to pursue, with the help of grants from the organisations 'Welcome To Our Future', Herefordshire Council and the Big Lottery with their 'Awards For All' Grant, the building of the new Resource/Meeting room and updating the heating system. The total costs were not met by those grants alone so therefore we are grateful to the community for helping us to achieve the improvements.

Looking forward, it is hoped to undertake further developments including the improvement of the lobby entrance area to provide cover for those attending activities in the hall in the event of inclement weather. This would also provide space for hanging coats, the parking of children's buggies and

importantly prevent heat loss from the main building.

We will still continue to seek funding from local and national sources towards this project but we will still need to raise further funds ourselves. I therefore would be grateful if present members will continue to support us and of course I would like to invite any new member to join us in this community venture. The scheme is that £12 purchases a single entry into the draw for each month of the year. Entries for more than one per month require a further £12 for each additional entry. Application forms are available from me or can be collected from the Community Hall. When completed the form and accompanying payment should be sent to me at the address below before the end of December, after which your application will be acknowledged and your draw number/s allocated.

John Jones, Chelston Grange, Much Birch,
Hereford HR2 8HR. Tel: 01981 540980

Neighbourhood Watch

We have received some excellent emails giving us some very important information which is vital in knowing who is "out and about on our area". Please continue to report any suspicious activity to us asap. By calling us on our team mobile as below. However please remember, if there is no answer or it goes to answer phone, that you need to ring the 03003333000 number and give as much detail to the call taker as possible so the info can be passed to us as quickly as possible via our colleagues.

Crime Trends

Overnight on Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th November, a battery was stolen from a tractor at a farm in Garway - the scrap value for batteries has gone up considerably and we are receiving more and more reports of such thefts in rural areas.

Several ceramic pots and an iron garden seat were stolen from an isolated property up for sale in Callow sometime last month.

Overnight on Monday 15th/Tuesday 16th November a cement mixer, disc cutter and a ladder were stolen from a builders yard in Pontrilas.

Suspicious vehicles

On the 1st November 4 car ramps were taken from a car repair centre in Allensmore.

On the 2nd November S538O*T was seen acting suspiciously in Ballingham. People were also seen nearby possibly poaching. Please keep an eye out for this vehicle. Enquiries are ongoing as to the registered keeper's reason for being at this location.

On the 3rd November petrol was taken from a car in Much Dewchurch and a loading bucket was taken from a farm in Much Birch. Numerous items were stolen from a farm in Orcop. Items included an off road motorbike, a quad bike, a trailer, various tools a lawn mower and also 2 electric egg washers.

On the 4th Nov, diesel was taken from a farm in St Weonards however many drums full of fuel were left at the scene. Offenders were possibly disturbed.

7th November. A vehicle was seen acting suspiciously on Rotherwas industrial estate N140*VS. A light blue pick up. Please report any sightings of this vehicle to us asap.

9th November diesel was taken from a vehicle at Rotherwas Ind Estate. Again offenders may have been disturbed as the drums were again left at the scene.

11th November a property at Wormelow was burgled. A barn was entered and numerous items were taken. Items included an Ifor Williams Trailer, strimmers and a motorised children's jeep.

At 05:45 on the 13th November milk was taken off a residents drive in Llanwarne. A vehicle was heard coming onto the drive with its radio playing very loudly.

At around 12.15 on 16th November a small white van WJ0*UXU called at a farm near Rotherwas, the occupants, two males with Irish accents, were offering chainsaws from the back of the vehicle. The same vehicle had been spotted in How Caple earlier that day.

The same day, a yellow high sided Ford transit pick-up Y2**FOD called at a business premises in Kingstone, the occupants were asking if there was any wood for sale. The occupants had Welsh accents.

On Wednesday and Thursday this week a blue Ford Fiesta FG1*PHK was seen on several occasions in our area, the Irish

occupants were offering second hand chainsaws. They were also spotted on Dyffed Powys area. If you have similar callers, let us know, and **never buy anything from them!**

Also on Friday at about 4.45pm, two Welsh males in a green VW Golf P84*LKJ called at a farm and business premises in Wormbridge, when challenged, they had a story of looking for a lost dog. The males were described as white, early 20's, wearing light coloured jackets, one had a trilby hat on, and one had a blue tattoo on the right side of his neck, going to under his ear.

More chainsaws were on offer from the occupants of a black VW Touareg estate YH08YC* yesterday afternoon. They were in Wormbridge, Orcop and Kilpeck, offering Stihl chainsaws for £150. Patrols spent some time searching for the vehicle but were unsuccessful.

Yet another vehicle offering chainsaws for sale, this time a white Citroen Berlingo WJ03UX* called at a farm in Orcop yesterday about 4pm, again officers were despatched to the area but once again there was no trace of the vehicle.

Finally, on Wednesday morning a van with a winch on the rear, called at a property in Llanwarne, the male occupant asked the householder if he could do some work on their property, when they refused to do business with him, the male was rude, but left the property. The registration of the vehicle was similar to L989DOC - if you can help with identifying this vehicle, please let us know. The male is described as about 50 years old with a very dark beard, close cropped.

All these reports of suspicious vehicles have been called in by readers of our briefings, and we would like to say 'thanks!', and keep the calls coming. Please be assured that all are followed up, where possible the occupants are spoken to, and intelligence reports are filed. In some cases intelligence markers are placed on the vehicles so they will show up on our ANPR cameras, so we can keep track of their whereabouts!

Your Officers based @ Peterchurch

Local Policing Sgt

timothy.dugmore@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Local Police Officer

PC Andrew Bundy

Mobile No: 07855 385 844

andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officers

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher

Mobile No: 07779 141 232

fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CSO 6993 Kevin Powell

Mobile No: 07779 141 232

kevin.powell.c6993@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

Hereford Rural South Email

herefordruralsouth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Non-Emergency phone 0300 333 3000

Emergency phone 999

Your Local Representatives

East –

JOHN BULBECK 540178

Central –

BOB PETERS 540670

West –

BETTY PHILPOTT 540614

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **JANUARY 2011** issue (in Word format please) by post or hand to Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD, left in the mail box at 'Bramleys' Kings Thorn or via **EMAIL** to semathews@btinternet.com by no later than :

* * * * *
17TH DECEMBER
* * * * *

RICHARD EKANITE

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Dilwyn, HR4 8HS

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