

NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN, THE BIRCHES & ACONBURY

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury – January 2011 – First published in 1977

2011

2011

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our
Readers a very Happy, Peaceful and Fulfilling New Year

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Newsletter

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who make this newsletter possible. John Bryant and Dick Brimacombe give us the local news, and many other contributors send in notices of what is going on, both on the entertainment front and news about the development of our villages. Roger Thomas and now Mike Leigh are our tireless printers, sometimes spending an entire morning or afternoon printing up to 500 copies of sometimes 16 pages. Then there are Des and Rose Wathen and their family who collate all the pages and deliver them to the army of people who kindly give their time to post the Newsletter through your door. Thank you all for doing a superb job,

Please keep your news coming in, John Bryant can be reached on 540316 and Dick Brimacombe on 540677 or you can send it direct to Mo Ross who has very kindly volunteered to take over the job of being Newsletter Co-ordinator at birchesnews@btinternet.com

Please keep us posted on new neighbours so that we can print a welcome, of any special anniversaries etc., and particularly any news of our young people. We also welcome letters on topical

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY 2011

31ST DECEMBER – New Years Eve Party LBVH

11TH JANUARY – Whist Drive

18TH JANUARY – W.I.

25TH JANUARY – Flicks in the Sticks

26TH JANUARY – Gardening Club

28TH JANUARY – Much Birch Village Market

ADVANCE NOTICES

12TH FEBRUARY – St. Valentine's Dance

15TH & 26TH FEBRUARY – Little Birch Pantomime

15TH MARCH – WI Open Meeting

local subjects, poems, and even adverse comments too!

New Years Eve Party

At Little Birch Village Hall - 'Mad Hats and Glad Rags' - with 'SOFA' + Disco. Bar and refreshments available.

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY** in 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.

W.I.

TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY sees the first WI meeting of the new

year when we welcome a familiar speaker, Phyl King, who will tell us about her trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

Meetings take place in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382, for further details.

Advance Notice

The Open Meeting will be on **TUESDAY 15TH MARCH** when we shall be hearing about a cycle trip between Bewdley and Beijing.

Flicks in the Sticks

Much Birch Flicks in the Sticks will be giving you more choice of when to see films in 2011 - we will be screening films on various nights, starting with a Tuesday in January! **TUESDAY 25TH JANUARY** at

7.30pm — FROM TIME TO TIME PG. Written and directed by the Academy Award winning writer *Julian Fellows*, this film is a haunting ghost story spanning two worlds, two centuries apart. When 13 year old Tolly finds he can mysteriously travel between the two, he begins an adventure that unlocks family secrets laid buried for generations. Starring *Maggie Smith, Timothy Spall, Pauline Collins and Hugh Bonneville*. Tickets £4 (£3 under 16s) are available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly 01981 580298. Refreshments will be served from 7.00pm.

Gardening Club

The next meeting in Little Birch Village Hall will take place on **WEDNESDAY, 26TH JANUARY** when Sarah Flint will discuss '*Houseplant propagation and care*'. Meetings always commence at 7.30pm and new members are always welcome. John Bryant 540316.

Much Birch Village Market

As usual the Market will be held on the 4th Friday of each month, (except in April and December when it is on the 3rd Friday due to the dates of Good Friday and Christmas).

The first market of 2011 is on **FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY** in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm, and 4.30pm. Please join us in showing support for local suppliers. For further details please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382.

St. Valentine's Dance

This will be at LB Village Hall on **SATURDAY 12TH FEBRUARY** Contact Robyn 540264 or Jackie 541027.

Little Birch Pantomime

(Advance Notice for purchase of tickets)

Pantomime "Up Little Birch" Performance dates **FRIDAY 25TH & SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY.**

Tickets for the Little Birch Pantomime will be available from the end of January from: Jackie Morley tel: 541027 and Hilary Gould 540322.

Family ticket (with up to two children) is **£16.00**, **Adult single £6.00**, and **Children (under 14) single £3.00**. Early booking recommended for this popular event. We look forward to an entertaining evening of fun and enjoyment for all ages.

Spreading Salt

Some good folk have kindly spread salt/grit in the bad spots on local roads - our grateful thanks go to them.

Local News

Congratulations go to LUCY MASON, who has been named 'Rising star of the Year' at the Co-operative's "Good with Food" Awards. She is currently the only woman enrolled on The Co-operative Farms fresh produce graduate scheme. Lucy worked with her parents, Bob and Sue Mason, at Merrivale Farm, Little Birch, which is an organic dairy and vegetable holding. She then studied Rural Enterprise and Land Management at Harper Adams University College in Shropshire. The Co-operative scheme gives participants the opportunity to spend time at a number of locations within their farming empire and Lucy is currently on placement at the Co-operative's farm at Coldham, Staffordshire.

As reported last month, OLIVE SAYELL passed away on 3rd November at the age of 84. Olive was born in Richmond, Surrey as one of 12 brothers and sisters. With such a large family, she had to do her share of the household tasks

and all sorts of jobs throughout WW2. After the war, Olive's sister, who lived in the Forest of Dean, became ill and Olive moved down to Coleford to look after her. Later, she took the position of looking after the children of REG SAYELL, who was an ex-prisoner of war in Japan and who had become a widower. Olive moved into Reg's home to become 'the nanny' and eventually married Reg. The seamstress skills, which she learned in her earlier years, were a great asset when looking after the children. Olive gave birth to 2 daughters with Reg, Pamela and Margo. In the 1980's, Olive suffered a severe heart attack and so she came to live with Margo and her family in an extension to their bungalow at King's Thorn. Sadly, Reg died in 1992.

However, Olive had a great fighting spirit and joined in many local organisations. She met Frank Short at the Evergreen Club and they were both very keen dancers and gave each other great companionship. She helped Frank no end in organising the Evergreen functions, especially the Christmas lunch at How Caple Grange. They holidayed together and she accompanied Frank on many of his naval reunions. Following lots of hospital treatment, she moved into Hampton Grange Nursing Home about a year ago but was very poorly over the last few months of her life and died in her sleep. She was very proud of her 13 grandchildren, umpteen great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild. Her funeral service took place at Hereford Crematorium on 19th November and was conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson, with a tribute given by her son-in-law, Terry, and a poem read by Margo. There is a typically smiling photograph of Olive on the front of the Service Sheet and the first hymn was appropriately, 'I danced in the morning when the world was begun'. Olive will be sadly missed by all of her

immediate and large extended family, neighbours and many friends. We send to them our deepest sympathies.

A Service to Celebrate the Life of HARALD BOSSE of King's Thorn, was held on 3rd December at Much Birch Church and was conducted by the Rev. Mark Johnson. He was born in Hamburg in 1930 at a time when Germany was just recovering from some of its most difficult economic times and his father ran a factory making meat products. He was the third of four brothers but unfortunately, the two surviving brothers were unable to make his funeral service. His father established his own factory in Frankfurt and it almost survived WW2, but was destroyed by one of the final US air raids in 1945.

As a 15 year old lad, Harald witnessed some horrific scenes which were to stay with him for the rest of his life but he did not wish to talk about them. He studied tirelessly in the years following the war, saying his future lay away from Frankfurt. He served various apprenticeships around Germany whilst getting his degree, worked in France and ended up in the UK, working in South Wales for FMC. In the late 1950's, Harald and a friend went to a party where JOSIE, then working for BP, was also attending with one of her girlfriends. They struck up a conversation and he followed her home where, over the garden gate, he wooed her and so began their relationship, which was to last for over 50 years.

In 1958, they were engaged, with marriage following in 1960. He obtained a job in Belfast and so with Josie in South Wales, life was not easy. When Jensen was born in 1961, He did long 3 week stints in Belfast but before long, he was employed by Comptons, Wythenshaw, Manchester, where the family moved and enjoyed a normal family life.

For 16 years at Comptons, Harald worked at tasting and refining the

way that various meat products were made. After a 3 year sojourn in Northumberland, He and Josie, working together, realised that there was a gap in the market for selling spices and meat curing products in the UK. It was a brave joint decision to sell up everything they possessed to start a new business in Ross on Wye and then they teamed up with Bush Boake Allen before going to work for Hagesud Interspice. This proved to be a great partnership and they formed a joint company in the 1990's.

Jensen, who had worked in banking in London, came back to join the family firm and learnt a good deal about the business from his father, but it was Harald who travelled all over the UK, not just selling new spices and flavourings, but giving to his customers the benefit of his knowledge to improve their processes and the way in which these were carried out and many firms benefited from his almost magical touch.

As the company flourished, he was encouraged to retire but he enjoyed his work so much to ever really give it up. He did promise Josie that he would work just one day a week but this soon became two and then almost as many hours as before. Part of the retirement deal was to build the house, 'Xanadu', on the King's Thorn road and with the future in mind, Harald insisted that it was built to Swedish standards, with lots of insulation to keep down heating costs. Typical wise planning. Harald and Josie enjoyed the house so much that they had not taken a holiday since moving in, preferring to enjoy the views, the lovely sunsets and the great garden, which they had created.

In June, he suffered a major stroke and although he made a good recovery, the 80 years were beginning to tell, although his speech recovered, his mobility was impaired but his mind was still as sharp as ever. He went into the

County hospital as he thought, for a blood transfusion with everyone expecting him home in a few days. Sadly, this was not to be and he died peacefully in his sleep on 24th November.

Harald was a man who was full of life, saw some terrible as well as wonderful times, was a real craftsman at his trade, but above all, loved his family and wanted to give them the best of everything, especially to grandson, Harry, on whom he doted. The esteem in which he was held, was shown by the number of ex-colleagues and friends, who filled Much Birch Church for the Service of Thanksgiving. The service was followed by interment in the churchyard.

We send to Josie, their son Jensen, and his wife, Paula, and grandson, Harry, our sincere condolences.

Last month, it was reported that the late Clare Atkinson had run the Hereford Half Marathon when he retired. This was incorrect as at that time, it was a full marathon course, which he completed. Clare never did anything by halves.

A big 'Thank you' is given to all those who generously donated to Christian Aid earlier in the year, when the sum of £216.54 was raised in Little Birch.

Our thanks again are extended to JACKIE and MIKE MORLEY, assisted by ADRIAN HODGES, who mopped out the ladies toilets and entrance hall in the Village Hall following a burst pipe in the loft space. Mike also repaired the leaking fitting.

PAMELA and JOHN ELPHICK have moved from Cherry Cottage back to Kent and wish to express through the Newsletter, their warmest thanks to all their friends and neighbours who made them so welcome when they arrived more than 5 years ago. Pam got around the village and made many friends and organised coffee mornings for charity. We wish them well.

Our best wishes to ALAN HIGGINS who moved from Mayfield about 3

months ago into Sheltered Accommodation in Ross.

A warm welcome is given to the LOWE family from Wrigglebrook, KERRI and RICHARD, with children, SHAUN and EMILY, and we hope they will be very happy in Cherry Cottage and also to BRIAN and NICKY CAVANAGH from Gloucester, who will be moving into Church Lane, Much Birch when they have completed extensive renovations to their bungalow.

Fast Broadband for H'fordshire

Following on from last month's article about FB4H, a little noticed announcement was that Central Government has thrown its weight behind broadband, to the tune of £530m. Most of this funding will be used to provide at least a 2Mb broadband service for everyone. In addition South Herefordshire has been chosen as one of only four areas for a superfast broadband pilot project. The extent of that pilot project and who gets connected first elsewhere will be influenced by the demonstration of where there is demand for a better service.

Villages and communities are being asked to encourage everybody who uses broadband to register their interest and, if you follow this link, you can complete the form and add your name.

www.fastbroadband4herefordshire.org.uk

This is such good news so please complete the form to underline our need for this enhanced service so that it can be used to give Herefordshire a bigger slice of the £530m.

The information will not be used for any purpose other than establishing potential demand for broadband and keeping you in touch.

MB 100 Club Draw

November draw took place on 9th November at Much Birch Community Hall at 7.15pm.

The winners were:

1. No 71 – Dr. A. Johnson, Little Birch
2. No 85 – Mrs.P.Rogers, Little Birch

The December draw took place on 9th December at Much Birch Community Hall at 7.15pm,

The winners were:

1. No 67 - Mr. & Mrs. C. Thomas, King's Thorn
- 2.No 44 - Mrs. P. Eggerton, Much Birch.

The next draw will take place on 11th January at 11.00am. in Much Birch Community Hall.

There is still time to join the 100 Club for 2011. If you require an entry form please do call on 01981 540980.

Halfway Theatre Company

We are looking for new members. Please come and join us. Reading music is not essential but a sense of humour and a love of good melody is! Our first meeting is on Friday 14th January at 7.30pm. at Much Birch Community Centre. For more information please phone Sally Hayter on 540 502.

Neighbourhood Watch

Crime Trends

On Wednesday 1st December, a Toyota Hilux parked at garage premises at Callow had the rear bumper stolen. This happened between 5.15 and 6.30pm.

Between Sunday 5th December and Monday afternoon, a blue Ford Dexter tractor with a red roll bar was stolen from a premises in Llandinabo. The tractor, which was about 50 years old, had been hitched to a trailer in an open barn, but some way away from the road - whoever took it knew it was there. This is the third theft of an old tractor from our area in the past two months, all were in barns away from the road, which

indicates that someone has been visiting the premises prior to the theft and having a good look round. Please bear this in mind if you own a vintage tractor.

Overnight on Saturday 4th/Sunday 5th a new storage barn was broken into at Wormelow and many items stolen including a red Honda quad bike, a Makita big saw, electric trains worth £2,500 and other electrical goods.

Suspicious vehicles

Also on 1st December, we received several calls from residents in Hoarwithy and Aconbury reporting a light blue Mazda MPV, reg CE 57 XY* calling round offering chainsaws for sale. Several units were despatched but were unable to locate it. However, enquiries later revealed the identity of the driver, who was spoken to and advised not to return!

A white Ford Transit panel van YH08NA* was seen in the Thorn Business Park at Rotherwas last week asking for scrap, the driver, who was very forceful, was described as just over 6', thick set with short cropped fair hair, and was in his 40's. The vehicle details have been added to our 'Hotlist' for officers on patrol across the force.

Another white Ford Transit panel van KY56FD* called at an industrial unit at Tarsmill Court, Rotherwas at about 10.30 yesterday morning, the driver stated he usually came to collect the scrap. This was not the case and he was asked to leave, whereupon he got very abusive and began shouting and swearing.

Crime prevention

Over the last couple of weeks we have seen a rise in potential scams reported across Herefordshire. These range from telephone calls, door to door salespersons from energy companies and also an old postal scam.

A report was received today of a possible telephone scam. The caller explained that she worked for a Data Agency and that for £3.00 every 28 days the agency could

stop any nuisance calls being received (the irony!). The caller went on to ask for bank details and when they were refused, the caller became quite insistent that she needed them to process the request further and explained that she would phone back to get the bank details tomorrow. Although at this time, this is the first report we have received about Data Agency, it is certainly one to be wary of as there are already systems in place such as the telephone preference service (TPS) which decrease the number of nuisance calls you receive and you can register for FREE. For details of the TPS contact your telephone provider or look them up online.

General Advice re Scams/Salespersons

Please be advised that Scams come in all guises but most will need YOU to pass on your bank details. NEVER give your bank details to any person at the door or over the phone unless you are 100% sure you know exactly what you are signing up for and can verify the company or individual's details. Your bank will never ask you for your card number/pin or security number if they phone you. NEVER PASS THESE DETAILS TO ANYONE. Just because the person on the other end of the phone knows your name it doesn't mean they are legitimate, names and address can be found on lots of internet sites and of course the phone book. If it seems like the offer is too good to be true, then it probably is. Don't be fooled into thinking that this 'special offer' is only going to last while you are on the phone, do not let any salesperson pressure you into buying something because it is a once in a life time offer, it's usually the same offer they had out last week and the week before.

If you do not want to buy from a salesman/ trader be clear and ask them to leave your property. If they refuse to leave or leave and return to your property they will

be committing a criminal offence. Call us on 0300 333 3000 or 999 to report any problems. If you require advice about your rights or to report a trader contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

Your Officers based at Peterchurch

Local Police Officer

PC 799 Andrew Bundy

Mobile **07855 385 844**

Community Support Officers

CSO 6173 **Fiona Witcher**

Mobile **07779 141 232**

CSO 6993 **Kevin Powell**

Mobile **07779 141 232**

E-mail

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

westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Answer phone - 01432 346756

Local Police Officer

Your Local Representatives

East –

JOHN BULBECK 540178

Central –

BOB PETERS 540670

West –

ETTY PHILPOTT 540614

Have Your Say

Today we are launching our consultation on West Mercia Policing and are seeking views and suggestions from the public. Our consultation runs until 31 January 2011.

We need to know what the public value most, whether it is addressing terrorism threats, fighting organised crime, detecting serious offences like murder, rape and armed robbery, spending time on anti social behaviour interventions, or simply patrolling our streets and providing reassurance. We want to hear the public's views.

"We are sending a consultation leaflet (please click on the attachment below to view the leaflet) to a number of public bodies like Parish Councils, to Victim and Witness Support Groups, local MPs and to Neighbourhood Watch groups. We are holding public meetings around the force area in the second week of January. Please visit our website at

www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk to let us know your views and to see when your nearest meeting will be held so you can give your important opinions. LINK

[[Ringmaster Police Consultation 2010.pdf](#)]

Reply using our website

If you have any information that you would like to pass on to us please call on 0300 333 3000 or dial 999 if it is urgent. If you would like to report anything anonymously please call CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111.

If the information you are giving refers to an incident number that you have please make sure you give this number to the Call Taker. Thank you.

Happy New Year!

... and Happy New You! After the overindulgence and euphoria of Christmas, many of us feel overwhelmed if not defeated by the task of bringing our bodies and minds back to "normal" afterwards. This is where a gentle, supportive practice of Yoga can really make a difference. In Yoga we learn to accept, and work with, who and what we have. If we have a spare tyre and rigidly inflexible hips, then that's where we start! It is not about some arbitrary level of bendiness, it's about You, "warts and all". Come along and have some time for yourself, beginning to realise those resoluteons realistically.

Items/Copy

Please would you send items for the Newsletter to birchesnews@btinternet.com or deliver by hand to the post box at Bramleys, Kings Thorn by:

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18TH JANUARY

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