

NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN, THE BIRCHES & ACONBURY

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

NOTICE FROM THE NEW WYE VALLEY NHS TRUST

As you may be aware, on the 1st April, a new organisation, Wye Valley NHS Trust, was created through the integration of Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust's community services and adult social care services previously provided by Herefordshire Council.

The creation of the new Trust provides a unique opportunity for the delivery of health and social care on an integrated basis, improving the quality of care provided and enabling us to better meet the needs of service users.

We write to invite you to the first, of what we hope will be a series of yearly roadshows. The road show will focus on our progress in implementing the new model of integrated care, our plans for the future and how members and interested members of the public can get involved.

**Ross on Wye, Chase Hotel
Tuesday 7th June 6.00p.m. to 8.00p.m.**

**Hereford County Hospital
Tuesday 21st June 6.00p.m. to 8.00p.m.**

Refreshments served at 5.30p.m. Please let us know if you wish to attend.

I do hope that Parishioners will attend and make your views known.

We look forward to seeing you at the roadshow.

Yours sincerely

Janette Ward

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE

- 2nd June - Much Birch Parish Council Meeting 7.30p.m. MBCH
- 4th June - 'Rapsquillion' and 'The Rythym Theives' in concert at RNCB
- 14th June - Whist Drive LBVH
- 14th June - Evergreen Club Outing
- 21st June - Much Birch W.I. MBCH
- 23rd June - RNCB Golf Tournament, Hereford Golf Club, Wormsley
- 24th June - Much Birch Village Market MBCH

ADVANCE NOTICES

- 2nd July - Little Birch Church Fete
- 6th July - Little Birch Parish Council Meeting LBVH
- 10th July - "Blooming Great Tea Party" Marie Curie Care

Foundation Trust Programme
Support Officer
Wye Valley NHS Trust
County Hospital
Union Walk
Hereford HR1 2ER
Tel: 01432 355444 Ext.5111
E: janette.ward@hhtr.nhs.uk

NOTICES FROM LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Find out Crime Levels in Your Street!

There is a new Police website where you can enter your postcode, town, village or street into a search box and get instant access to street-level crime maps and data, as well as details of your local policing team and beat meetings. Please go to <http://www.police.uk/> for more details.

Major Hazard in the Village!

Members of Little Birch Parish Council have recently conducted a 'Parish Walk' with three representatives from Amey. One issue raised was the possible hazard of the wall in

the back garden of Ordnance Cottage, adjacent to the entrance of Crows Nest. This wall forms part of the highway and its stability is causing major concern. Amey representatives advised Little Birch Parish Council that this was not an issue for Amey and that it needed to be raised with Herefordshire Council's Building Control and the Parish Clerk have since contacted them to organise an inspection. Amey personnel placed four verge markers opposite Crow's Nest as a temporary measure to deter drivers from driving on the verge which could contribute to the wall collapsing completely with untold injury. However, the Parish Council was informed that these markers had been removed and placed on the floor preventing drivers from seeing them! Little Birch Parish Council request that these FOUR markers remain in

position as a deterrent until work can be completed to stabilise the wall.

Parish Field

Many thanks to those parishioners who gave comments on the future of the Parish Field. All are invaluable and will be combined with the suggestions obtained during the Planning for Real event to incorporate into the Parish Plan. In the meantime, the Parish Council have requested that the Wye Wood Enterprise complete a further day in July to finish the clearance which should then leave minor trimming/strimming that can be added to the Lengthsman's duties until the Parish Plan's activities are ready to be implemented.

Broadband Opportunity

If you are unhappy with your broadband speed or supplier there is an alternative that you could investigate. The Herefordshire Company Allpay is offering broadband to rural areas and you can register your interest by going to their website:

www.allpaybroadband.com/about.

Even if they have no coverage in your area, if enough people register an interest then they may expand their current network.

REPORT OF THE LITTLE BIRCH PARISH ANNUAL AND COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY 2011.

Mr. M. Morley was duly elected as chairman with Mrs A Clarke proposing and Mr J Dillon seconding.

No interests were declared.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 5th May 2010 and Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd March 2011 were read and signed as a true record.

Annual Meeting Items

Chairman's Report - Mr. J. Dillon gave a summary of the Council's activities for the past year voicing that the year had been eventful culminating in an election year which was uncontested. John welcomed Elaine and gave a brief outline of the invaluable work that Elaine has completed around the village. There was pleasure that the Castle Inn had reopened with the opinion that it needed to be fully supported. It was recognised that the Village Hall Management Committee had completed excellent work to maintain the building and develop it into a viable events location. John thanked the work completed by the lengthsman and the Clerk, Mike and Alison for their contribution to the Parish Initiative and the Little Birch Community Led Steering Group for organising a great Planning for Real event. Initial work had been carried out to level the Parish Field and further discussion was needed to agree its future. This item concluded with the remaining Parish Councillors thanking John for his contribution to the Parish Council in his role as Chairman and to Sue Jones for her contribution as Parish Councillor.

Annual Financial Report - The Parish Council's books were available for inspection and the Clerk issued details of the 2010/2011 accounts. £642.08 is to be carried forward to the 2011/12 financial year.

Village Hall Report - The Village Hall has continued with its good fund raising activities with the Pantomime, History Walks, Pub Nights, New Year's Eve Party etc. Several visitors

have commented on how well maintained the Hall is. Future projects include possibly extending the stage due to Health & Safety issues. Thanks were directed at the History Group who organise and fund their own activities, donating door takings etc to the Village Hall.

AOB - All Parish Councillors signed their 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' and the 'Written Undertaken to Observe the Code of Conduct' before the end of the meeting and Clerk to issue all with Declaration of Interest Forms to complete within 28 days of the Annual Meeting.

Matters Arising

Parish Lengthsman - An invoice for 17 hours received and the final quarter payment of the lengthsman scheme requested from Herefordshire Council. Mr M Morley and Mrs A Clarke to complete a walk around the parish to add to any on-going maintenance issues and compile a list of works for the 2011/12 financial year.

Parish Initiative - A Parish Walk was completed with Mrs A Clarke, Mr M Morley and three representatives from Amey. A list of items from the 'Walk' was distributed, discussed and agreed.

Community Led Plan - Further meetings have been organised to create the questionnaire incorporating the suggestions from the Planning for Real event. Once agreed, questionnaire to be sent to all Little Birch residents.

Parish Field - Good work completed by the Wye Wood Enterprise and invoice received. 4 parishioners have offered views on the future of the Parish Field which were

discussed during the meeting. It was agreed that all views to be added to those obtained from the Planning for Real event, to put forward in the Parish Plan. Article to be written for the newsletter explaining all to local residents. New planning system – Mr M Morley attended a Herefordshire Council planning meeting where Parish Councils were told about the new paperless planning applications starting in August 2011. Any Planning Applications will only be able to be viewed via a laptop after being downloaded from a website.

HALC SAM meeting – Mr M Morley attended the meeting that took place on 18th April 2011 and wanted to highlight two items concerning a potential new broadband supplier and the Localism Bill. Parish Clerk Wages – It was agreed that the Clerk to complete all necessary paperwork to register the Parish Council as an employer and PAYE to be paid on the Clerk's salary.

Any Other Business

CSO F. Witcher gave a summary of crimes committed in the Parish over the last year with the latest being an unmarked oil tanker who emptied a local's oil tank. Fiona also advised of the new national Police website, The next SAM Meeting (31/10/11) to be attended by Mr M Morley and Mrs E Godding. The Parish Council agreed to subscribe again to HALC. Date of Next Meeting – **Wednesday 6th July 2011**

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish. Contact

details are: Liz Callwood 540081 or lizcallwood@googlemail.com

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

As most of you are aware, Much Birch Parish Council is in the process of finding a new parish clerk. Until a new permanent clerk is appointed, there will not be any reports of Parish Council business in this newsletter. Parishioners are asked to check the parish website

www.muchbirchparish.org.uk and the parish noticeboards, where agendas and minutes will be displayed as usual.

VACANCIES ON MBPC

Two vacancies exist for parish councillors for the parish of Much Birch. Will anyone interested in putting themselves forward for co-option, please make contact with the Chairman of MBPC, Dave Davies, 01981 – 540592.

Next Parish Council meeting **Thursday 2nd June at 7.30p.m.** MBCH.

THANK YOU:

Vivien Short has been forced to stand down as a parish councillor on MBPC due to increasing demands on her time, caring for elderly and frequently unwell parents. Our thanks to Vivien for all her efforts on behalf of the parish, especially in her role as the grit salt queen of Barrack Hill!

DAWN CHORUS WALKS

The 'Dawn Chorus' Walks on Sat and Sun 6th and 7th May were very much enjoyed. Meeting at Merrivale Farm at 5.30am., Bob Mason, John Penrice and Adrian Hodges led the parties over fields and through Athelstan Wood, where the songs of Thrushes, Blackbirds, Robins, Blackcaps,

Chiff chaffs, Dunnocks, Wrens, Blue tits, Great tits and Nuthatches were pointed out and even 2 cuckoos appeared on cue, flying over the chosen trail and filled the shy with their usual calling. A splendid Full English breakfast was then served at the Village Hall by Jackie Morley, Robyn Hodges, Annette Wissler and Sue Mason and the arrangement of the tables enabled lively conversation to flow whilst enjoying a leisurely meal. Our thanks to everyone involved and to those who kindly supported this event for Village Hall funds.

THE ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS AT THE CASTLE INN 29th APRIL 2011

I would like to thank the Castle Inn for putting on such a lovely day to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

The community enjoyed a wedding breakfast with a champagne buck's fizz whilst watching live footage of the big day followed by an all day kitchen BBQ.

A hat competition was held and the prize of £50.00 donated by the Castle Inn was shared between Iris Lloyd and Marion Bibby for their excellent participation.

Photographs of the day will be on display at the Castle Inn and on the web-site, www.thecastleinnpub.co.uk.

Paul Chicken and David Langford worked really hard for us and enjoyed a steady flow of eager punters enjoying the food and beer along with the community spirit.

Thank you once again
Elaine Godding.

BOOKINGS FOR LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL

At the LBVH Committee AGM of 18 May, The chairman John Bryant and committee members thanked Jackie Morley for the outstanding service she has provided (supported by Mike) to the community as LBVH Key holder and Bookings agent for the past five years.

Please Note:-

From 1st June 2011, the Booking Agent for LBVH will be Mrs Sue Jones Tel. 01981 540682 (after 3pm)

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Community Transport Schemes operate in every parish in the county and rely on volunteer drivers to provide transport for local people who often have no other means of getting about. With local bus services under threat due to cuts in local authority funding, it is important that local community transport providers have the resources to meet the increasing demand for their services.

If you are a good driver and have some time to spare, even if it's only a couple of hours a week, then you could make a big difference to someone's life in your community. You could either drive your own car, for which you would receive a mileage allowance, to reimburse your running costs, or a minibus or smaller vehicle owned by the scheme. Journeys are usually made within Herefordshire but schemes may also take people further afield e.g. for hospital appointments. If you would like more information on being a volunteer, or details of your nearest community transport scheme, please contact Paul

Paice, Rural Transport Advisor, on 01432 - 262971 or e.mail paulp@comfirst.org.uk

FOLK AND FOLK ROCK AT RNCB

**Saturday 4 June, 7.30pm
Royal National College for the Blind, Hereford**

A special night with 'Rapsquillion', veterans of the Shropshire/Welsh Borders folk music scene, together with members of the lively five-piece folk-rock band the 'Rhythm Thieves'. Tickets £6.50 (£5.50 cons) available on 01432 376372.

MUCH BIRCH 100 CLUB DRAW

The May draw took place on Sunday 8th May 2011 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am. The winners were:

1. No 29 - Mrs. J. Wylor-Owen, King's Thorn
2. No 79 - Mrs. I. Hemmings, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on **Tuesday, 7th June 2011 at 7.15pm** in Much Birch Community Hall
John Jones - Chairman

WHIST DRIVE

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 14 June** 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.

THE EVERGREEN CLUB

On **Tuesday 14 June**, we are going to Porthcawl. Non-walkers may prefer to spend the whole day here but there will be an opportunity, for those who enjoy walking, to visit Kenfig Dunes Nature Reserve in the afternoon.

The cost is £10 (£12 for non-members).

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

The pick-up times are:

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Tump Lane (bungalows)	9.00
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
Fontaine Court	9.45

MUCH BIRCH W.I.

The June meeting takes place on 21st of the month in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30 pm. The speaker, whose subject will be 'The Food We Eat', is David Barrie.

On 19th July we look forward to a talk by Brenda Drake on the work of the Associated Country Women of the World, (ACWW) for which we collect 'Pennies for Friendship' in lieu of payment for refreshments. The association does wonderful work helping to educate under-privileged women in third world countries.

August 16th sees us 'Family Tree Tapping' with Frank Townsend. Potential new members and visitors are always welcome.

Please contact Kath, 01981 540382, or Caroline, 01981 540422, for further details of Much Birch WI.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Royal National College for the Blind 2011 Golf Tournament
Herefordshire Golf Club,
Wormsley, Thursday 23 June**

Have a great day of golf and support the Royal National College for the Blind. Stableford Rules apply and any team of 4 can enter: m/f or mixed. Price per player £30 or £120 a team.

Includes: · Two-course carvery meal · Awards ceremony · Raffle and short auction. Put in a team by emailing marion.lyons@rncb.ac.uk or calling her on 01432 376372.

MUCH BIRCH VILLAGE MARKET

The market takes place in Much Birch Community Hall on the 4th Friday of each month between **2.30 pm and 4.30 pm**.

On **June 24th** we hope to see our usual three butchers, the baker, preserves and chutneys, handmade chocolate, vegetables and the Fair Trade stand. We welcome relatively new additions to our market, Castle Cheese and Dan, who sharpens knives, scissors and garden tools. There are a variety of local craft stalls. Much Birch WI sells books in aid of its two 2011 charities, The Hereford Eye Scanner Appeal and Talking Newspapers.

Refreshments and 'take home cakes' are sold in aid of McMillan Cancer Support.

Please be aware that this information is correct at the time of going to press. I apologise if someone is missing due to holidays etc.

Please contact Kath, 01981 540382 for further details.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

LITTLE BIRCH CHURCH FETE

will be held at 'The Sycamores', Little Birch, by kind invitation of Dot and Gerald Skyrme, on **Saturday 2nd July** starting at **2pm**.

Offers of help and prize donations will be greatly appreciated.

Further information from John Caton 540267, Pauline Rogers 541201, Janet Pugh 540662, Steve Turner 540091, James Gould 540676 or John Bryant 540316.

ADVANCE NOTICE

You are invited to "A Blooming Great Tea Party" **Sunday 10th July 2.30p.m onwards** at Much Birch Community Hall. For further details contact 01981 – 541130. In Aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

THANK YOU!

Sheila and John Penrice wish to thank all friends and neighbours for their cards, condolences, and messages of sympathy, following the recent death of John's mother.

LOCAL NEWS

The whole community was stunned to hear of the untimely death of **Nicola Johnson**, who lived with her family in Wrigglebrook, following a tragic road accident on the A4137 at Marstow on Bank Holiday Monday, May 2nd. Nicola was returning from work at the University Hospital Wales in Cardiff, where she had been a senior staff nurse on the surgical ward for many years. Her husband, Mark, said that she loved her job and never wanted to be anything other than a nurse. She was an incredibly caring person who dedicated her life to the care of others. Outside of work, her interests were travelling, skiing, food and the theatre, but most of all, the love of her family. Nicola had lived and worked in several areas of the UK and the many, many friends she had made will be very sad in her passing. We extend to husband Mark, son, Jamie, and her father, Clifford, our deepest heartfelt sympathies.

At least 3 of our friends in the community are in hospital at the time of writing and we hope that they will soon be recovering back in their homes.

It is pleasing to see **Joan Daniels** back at home after several spells in hospital.

A warm welcome is extended to **Richard and Dea Tompkins**, who have come to live at Priory Cottage at the far end of the Barrack Hill. We trust that they will settle happily into the community and make many new friends.

Congratulations are extended to **Helen Fox** and her students at Leominster, who were awarded the 'Best in Show' for their Garden in the Schools and Colleges Challenge at the recent Malvern Show. Sadly, although the garden was filmed, it did not feature in the TV coverage.

It is a proud moment to announce that **Rev. Preb. Kay Garlick** has been appointed as an Honorary Queen's Chaplain, which means that she can now wear red robes and preach at St. James' Palace once a year. Congratulations! Kay.

A warm welcome to several new residents of Much Birch. **Leslie and Jean Ellis** moved into Leesfield, Hollybush Lane on the 18th April. They came here from Somerset on Leslie's retirement as a building surveyor. He has been self employed for 13 years having previously worked for The National Trust in Cornwall. **Mark and Caroline Forrester** have just come to live in Somerset Cottage, Much Birch, having lived in Belmont for 3 years. Mark runs Western Autos in Homer Road and specialises in restoring Vintage American cars.

Finola Brain, who is a midwife at the County Hospital and her 2 year old son, **Riley**, have just moved into 30 Tump Lane. Welcome back to 14 Tump Lane to **David Weale**, who returns

to the family home where he was brought up. We hope that they all enjoy living in our community.

A "Royal Wedding Street Party" was held in Hollybush Lane, Much Birch on the day after The Wedding. It was arranged by **Coline Grover** and **Brenda Sherwood** and held in Chris and Coline's front garden. About 40 people attended in perfect weather and enjoyed an excellent Bring and Share lunch. It was a good opportunity to meet new friends and chat to old ones. A surplus of £40 over expenses was donated to the Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton Charitable Gift Fund.

PARISHIONER'S RESPONSE TO LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING USE OF PARISH LAND:

I have various suggestions:-

1. A small nature reserve (with a possible link to Much Birch School?)
2. A wild flower meadow
3. An outside performance arena
4. Picnic and barbeque site
5. Centre for seasonal writing, sketching and photography.

Joan Rees

PARISHIONER'S PLEA TO DOG OWNERS

It is truly horrible when mowing or strimming the grass verges around properties, to find that suddenly, you are quite literally covered in dog faeces. Your clothes, shoes, and the tools and equipment you have been using stink, and have to be cleaned off before being fit for future use. The dogs are

not to blame, they are doing what comes naturally; but the humans who are supposed to be in charge of the dogs, are bound by law, to clean up any mess their dog makes. Please remember this, and try to be a little more respectful, thoughtful and kind toward your neighbours. Thank you.

MUCH BIRCH SURGERY

Much Birch, Hereford HR2 8HT
01981 540310

We are looking for a cleaner – ideally someone who loves early mornings and probably lives locally. If you are interested in joining our team at Much Birch Surgery, please ask for more information at Reception.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

An Ifor Williams LM105 dropside double axle trailer was stolen between Thursday 12th and Saturday 14th May from woodland near Little Dewchurch. The trailer is 10' long and was bearing the registration number WU52WTA on the rear.

A quantity of catalytic converters and some copper piping were stolen from an industrial premises in Fordshill Road, Rotherwas, between Saturday 14th lunchtime and Monday morning.

A garage in Grafton was broken into between 9am and 7pm on Sunday 15th, the lock was forced off causing damage to the wooden door, but it does not appear that anything was taken.

Overnight on Sunday 15th/Monday 16th, a blue Nissan pickup DX06NTL and an Ifor Williams trailer were stolen from a farm in Madley. The farm is in a very rural location down a track, the truck had

been parked in an outbuilding, and the trailer, which was a flat bed with rear ramp had been in a yard some 50 yards away.

Two large rotary bed tillers (farmers will know what they are!) were stolen from a field in Wormbridge sometime between Sunday 15th and Tuesday 17th. It would have taken a hi-ab to lift these items, which were painter orange, and made by 'Howard'.

100 litres of diesel was stolen from two JCB's at a farm in Allensmore overnight on Monday 16th/Tuesday 17th.

Overnight on Monday 16th/Tuesday 17th thieves risked their lives to steal overhead power cables from a field in Kentchurch. A 480m length of live bare aluminium conductor, about 50mm thick, has been cut down. The cables had been approximately 10m off the ground, so some kind of high vehicle would have been used, and the persons responsible must have known what they were doing!

Suspicious vehicles

At 12.30 today a white Ford Transit CK52ZF* was in Longtown, the male driver is described as aged about 20 with mousey brown very short hair with an earring in his left ear, he was about 5'8" tall, very slim build. There was also a female aged about 19-20 with blonde hair in a pony tail and there was also a little girl aged about 3 or 4, who was really blonde. The caller noticed there were quite a number of florescent jackets in the front of the van. The driver was asking for scrap and batteries.

Last night (Tuesday 17th) at about 10.15 pm, a blue flat back truck with what appeared to be scaffolding bars on, entered the

yard of a farm in Kentchurch, and a male, described as 'big and bald' got out of the truck and went across the yard. When challenged, he said he was 'looking for someone', and rushed back to the truck which contained two other males, and left hurriedly. Unfortunately, the registration number was not visible, have you had similar callers?

Results

At 1.30 this morning a vehicle was stopped by one of our night patrols in Moccas, and it was found to contain items of property that are believed to be stolen. One male has been arrested and enquiries are in hand to trace other occupants of the vehicle.

We are keen to trace the owner of one of the items recovered - it is a (please excuse the description as I haven't seen it!) 'hydraulic fence post rammer' I gather it is a piece of kit used for industrial fence erecting and used with a tractor or JCB.

Anyway, if you have lost one, let us know!

Two males were arrested yesterday for a burglary that took place in Peterchurch a couple of weeks ago. Stolen property was recovered and also a quantity of drugs. Enquiries are ongoing.

Thanks for all the calls and e-mails - can I stress however that if you see something suspicious please call it in at the time it is happening on 0300 333 3000 or even 999 if a crime is being committed.

There are patrols out at night, as illustrated in the incident at Moccas, and rural crime is very high on our agenda at the moment - we need your help to

catch these individuals, so please call.

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams
PS 3113 Robin Davies
robin.davies@westmercia.pnn.uk

PC 2368 Chris Lea 07855 785080

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07779 141232

CSO 6993 Kevin Powell 07779 141232

CSO 6366 James Cooke 07779 141223

CSO 6482 Katie Middleton 07779 141223

E-mail - goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or

E-mail - herefordruralsouth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Non - emergency number 0300 333 3000

AN 'OBITUARY' PRINTED IN THE LONDON TIMES

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

Knowing when to come in out of the rain; Why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.....

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for

using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;

I Know My Rights

I Want It Now

Someone Else Is To Blame

I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

RISK TAKING IS FREE

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.
To expose feeling is to risk exposing your true self.

To place your ideas, your dreams before the crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying.

To hope is to risk despair.

But risk must be taken, because the greater hazard in life is to risk nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, and is nothing,

He may avoid suffering and sorrow but he simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live.

Chained by his certitudes, he is a slave, he has forfeited his freedom.

Only a person who risks is FREE.

ZEN

Where there is great doubt, there will be great awakening; small doubt, small awakening, no doubt, no awakening.

Thanks to all who have sent in copy, it is much appreciated.

Just a reminder – that this is your newsletter and it will be as interesting as you make it.

Again, our youngsters are seriously under-represented so where are you??? We want to hear from you.

Send items for the newsletter to birchesnews@btinternet.com or deliver by hand to 'Bramleys' in Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE
18th JUNE**

NEW ADVERTISERS THIS MONTH!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
“A BLOOMING GREAT TEA
PARTY”**

**SUNDAY 10th JULY 2011
MUCH BIRCH COMMUNITY
HALL 2.30p.m ONWARDS**

ENQUIRIES 01981 – 541130

IN AID OF MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

**FURRY FRIENDS
Dog Walking * Cat Visits
* Petsitting ***

**Individual attention given
I only take *your* dogs when walking**

If you're working or away or just need help a reliable animal lover will take care of them.

I also do **ANIMAL HEALING** using only natural methods

Sarah 01981 580318

or email

sarahcatwoman@yahoo.co.uk



for more info.

www.furryfriends.gb.com