

NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN, THE BIRCHES & ACONBURY

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



FASTER BROADBAND - MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

A major survey has been launched in our parishes and market towns to help bring high-speed broadband to rural Herefordshire.

With the support of Government funding to improve broadband in rural communities, work is expected to begin in south Herefordshire next year, and will then be extended throughout the county.

Local Broadband Champion volunteers are being recruited to help engage their local communities. In the coming weeks questionnaires will go out to thousands of homes and businesses to gather evidence on demand for superfast broadband. Or you can do the survey online at www.fastbroadband4herefordshire.org.uk.

Cllr Graham Powell, broadband champion for project partner Herefordshire Council, said: "These questionnaires are crucial to the process of bringing superfast broadband to Herefordshire. We urge every household and business to complete and return them."

To become a broadband champion for your rural community, contact: Graham Powell:
grahampowell@herefordshire.gov.uk

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

- 2nd Oct – Harvest Evensong St. Mary's Little Birch
 - 6th Oct – Much Birch Parish Council Meeting MBCH
 - 8th Oct – Much Birch Surgery Flu Clinic MBCH
 - 8th Oct – Iberian Extravaganza MBCH
 - 11th Oct – Whist Drive LBVH
 - 11th Oct – Evergreen Club outing
 - 14th Oct – Pampered Chef LBVH
 - 18th Oct – W.I. MBCH
 - 20th Oct – Reminiscence Evening LBVH
 - 22nd Oct – Much Birch Surgery Flu Clinic MBCH
 - 22nd Oct – Harvest Supper LBVH
 - 25th Oct – Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
 - 26th Oct – Gardening Club LBVH
 - 28th Oct – Much Birch Village Market MBCH
 - 29th Oct – Much Birch Church PCC Table Top Sale
- Advance Notices:**
- 11th Nov – Arts Alive Event Birch Hall, Steiner Academy
 - 19th Nov – Hereford Choral Society concert at the Cathedral
 - 27th Nov – Little Birch Village Hall Christmas Fair LBVH
 - 1st Dec – Little Birch Village Hall Christmas Bingo

or the organiser 'Fast Broadband4Herefordshire'
David Sheppard:
david@davidsheppard.com
From: Alison Grange
01432 - 260658
12th September 2011

AN APPEAL FOR HELP

Aspire Living, the local charity helping people with learning disabilities, is actively looking for volunteers to support its work in Herefordshire. There are a number of opportunities available for volunteering across the range of services which Aspire Living offers and anyone with some time to spare and an interest in helping people less fortunate than themselves is urged to get in touch.

If you enjoy working on your computer, Aspire runs an Online Centre and needs more volunteers to give one-to-one computers skills training at different levels. The recently launched Music Gym at Point 4, Venns Lane, which offers a unique sensory experience whatever the level of disability, needs activity assistants to help provide stimulation in a fun environment. The Music Gym is the only one of its kind in the UK and is a ground-breaking project from Aspire Living.

The Tan Brook centre in Hereford provides facilities for older people with learning disabilities and also needs volunteers to help with their activities. The Leominster and Ross on Wye areas both need volunteers to act as 'life

experience buddies' for clients, helping them to access local facilities.

Aspire's Work Right scheme needs job coaches to teach people with learning disabilities who are accepted for work by local employers, how to do the job and stay with them until they are confident on their own.

A spokesperson for Aspire says "Volunteers can make so much difference to the work we do – and to the lives of our clients – which makes it mutually rewarding. We provide training and support and can pay reasonable expenses if required. If you are interested but a little nervous of making a firm commitment, then we do offer 'tasters' so you can try it out before you commit".

All voluntary positions with Aspire Living are subject to a CRB check. Anyone interested is asked to contact **Judith Weir**, on 01432 269406, or call in at Suite, 4, Penn House, Broad Street, Hereford (next to Santander).

Richard Dudley
Aspire Living Ltd
Head Office:

Suite 4,
Penn House
9/10 Broadstreet
Hereford
HR4 9AP

Tel. 01432 269 406

Find us on Facebook, search Aspire Living Ltd.

DON'T MISS h.EBERGY – SUSTAINABLE HEREFORDSHIRE WEEK! 15th – 23rd October 2011
70 'low carbon events' will be taking place all across the county involving community groups, households, schools, farms, businesses, council

departments and GP surgeries. All are opening their doors to members of the community who are interested in finding out about renewable energy, energy efficiency, local food production, and sustainable building. There is also a big showcase event at the Courtyard Theatre on the **Monday 17th October** featuring Alys Fowler from Gardener's World and Andrew Simms from the New Economics Foundation. We hope you can come along! More information, including the brochure is available at www.herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk or contact dave@herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk

NOTICES FROM LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

LITTLE BIRCH PARISH PLAN

All Little Birch residents will be receiving questionnaires either at the end of **September** or the first week of **October**. Each household member, whatever their age, will be asked a series of questions to identify what they believe are the priorities for our community. The questions incorporate the views of all parishioners who attended the Planning for Real event last March and address issues that are recognised as being important to our parish. The experience of other Herefordshire parishes that have, to date, produced Community-Led Plans is that the questionnaire surveys lead to genuinely useful follow-up action.

The questionnaires will be delivered by hand by volunteers. Please ensure that there is one copy for each adult

(over 18 year old) that resides in your household as well as a Young Person Survey for each person aged under 18. If you require further copies, please contact Liz Callwood on 01981 540081.

The questionnaires will be collected during October so, if possible, please arrange with the person delivering the questionnaire a convenient time or place to pick up the completed paperwork. Please feel free to contact Liz on the number above or ask your delivery/pick up person any questions about the questionnaires.

LIBRARY SERVICE

If anyone is interested and has an innovative approach to local library services, there is an "Expression of Interest For a Community Run Library" form that gives information and captures your ideas. If you want to find out more information or obtain one of these forms, please contact Jon Chedgzoy, Libraries Manager at Herefordshire Council using the following:

Email:

jchedgzoy@herefordshire.gov.uk.

Address:

Jon Chedgzoy,
Libraries Manager,
Herefordshire Council,
PO Box 4,
Hereford, HR4 0XH

Tel: 01432 260631

One possibility is a book exchange scheme that is being investigated by Little Birch Village Hall Committee.

BROADBAND SERVICES

There is currently a 'Broadband in Herefordshire - Strategy for Delivery - Fibre at the Core' project being run by Herefordshire Council.

Information and events are currently being disseminated through Little Birch Parish Council however someone who could Champion this cause would be advantageous. They could attend the meetings and promote any future delivery to Little Birch residents with the Parish Council. Please contact Liz Callwood on 01981 540081 if you want to be part of bringing Superfast Broadband to Little Birch.

PARISH PRECEPT

Little Birch Parish Council is financed by an amount of money called the precept which all residents in Little Birch contribute to via the Council Tax. The Lengthsman Scheme is an additional pot of money received from Herefordshire Council to pay for the Lengthsman to maintain roadside verges and drainage, public open space and pathways and this is usually around £600-£700.00 per year. For 2012/13 financial year, Little Birch Parish Council's spending is expected to be budgeted as follows:

EXPENDITURE	
Staff Costs	£750.00
Insurance	£400.00
Rent of LBVH	£100.00
Annual Audit	£150.00
Data Commission	
Annual Subscription	£35.00
HALC Subscription	£140.00
Newsletter	
Contribution	200.00
Total	£1,775.00

Possible additional expenditure that is known currently to the Parish Council include a 1/3 contribution to purchasing a digital Projector (needed to view planning applications), a contingency amount for the

introduction of Participating Budgeting and any other future projects that are not yet known which may be as a result of the Parish Plan. The precept for 2011/12 was £2300.00 (increased to pay for a possible election which was then used for the Parish Field clearance together with the Parish Plan obligation). If any residents wish to request any further specific expenditure by Little Birch Parish Council, please contact Liz Callwood on 01981 540081 by 24th October so that discussions may take place in the next Parish Council Meeting prior to setting the precept with Herefordshire Council in January 2012.

REPORT OF THE LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2011.

No interests were declared. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2011 were read and signed as a true record.

County Councillors Update

Cllr. R. Hamilton gave information on the Newsletter that he had sent out and published in the Church newsletter, Septic tanks that are no longer required to be registered, the bus services that were not affected by the current 'cuts', winter planning, the Economic Development Strategy and Localities. Cllr. R. Hamilton offered to talk to the 'Save the Pub Campaign' Committee, requested feedback from the Parish Council on his newsletter and said that he knew of no current plans to replace PACT meetings.

Matters Arising

From previous minutes - The local resident approached to be

Broadband Champion for Little Birch declined. Clerk to write an article requesting a volunteer for this role. Mr. M. Morley to attend any interim meetings.

Village Hall - A detailed list of all future events for September and October was given with advance notices for a Christmas Fayre on 27th November and a New's Eve Party. Work on the stage extension will be starting imminently. Adverts have been deleted from the newsletter after the owners have not responded to repeated requests for payment. The possibility of a joint purchase of a digital projector between the Village Hall Management Committee, the History Group and the Parish Council to be proposed in detail for the next Parish Council meeting which could be used to display Planning Applications to all attendees of Parish Council Meetings, when the new Internet based Planning software is made available from Herefordshire Council. A proposed community library located in the Village Hall is being discussed by the Village Hall Management Committee, Clerk to forward details to Committee members.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme - List of works completed and sent to the Lengthsman.

Parish Initiative - Spreadsheet updated and two areas highlighted with no progress even though Amey has stated 'work completed'; the introduction of a sleeping policeman in School Lane to direct run off water into the existing ditch and the open drain in School Lane which is a

hazard to people, animals and vehicles.

Community Led Plan - Representatives from the Steering Group informed the Parish Council that the Questionnaire is in a final draft form and relevant details have been sent out to involved parties for agreement prior to distributing around the village. Quotes currently being obtained for the copying of the questionnaires.

Parish Field - The extra day's work by the Wye Wood Enterprise was cancelled due to their shut down. Clerk to obtain 3 quotes to complete the work within the set budget. Parish Precept - Clerk to write an article in the newsletter.

Ordnance Cottage - A detailed report has been produced by an Amey inspector with the Parish Council being told that the road is not in danger of collapsing. The Parish Council have requested this in writing.

Parish Councillors Packs - It was agreed that all Parish Councillors read and confirm the information given on the 'Code of Conduct'.

Training Courses - All training course's details were distributed and discussed.

Planning

Withdrawn Application for The Sycamores - Discharge of Planning Obligation Section 106 of SH920398/PF - single residential property sitting within approx 1.21 acres of garden

Any Other Business

CSO. K. Powell reported no crime for the area but still highlighted local crime trends including theft of trailers and farm machinery. He also requested that local residents

contact West Mercia Police if they notice any suspicious activity.

Date of Next Meeting - **Wednesday 2nd November 2011@7:45pm**

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

HARVEST EVENSONG

St. Mary's Church, Little Birch invites you to join us for TRADITIONAL HARVEST EVENSONG With Rev mark and The Compost Heap On **Sunday 2nd October at 6.30pm** Followed by LIGHT HARVEST TEA in the church. Why not bring the kids too! They can play in our Kidz-zone area, while you enjoy the service. We look forward to seeing you there!

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to attend the next meeting of MBPC which will be at **7.30p.m.** at **Much Birch Community Hall, on Thursday 6th October.**

Time is set aside for parishioners to address the Parish Council on parish matters, although the only decisions that may be taken by the Council that evening, are ones relating to items on the agenda.

More info on Much Birch Parish can be found on www.muchbirchparish.org.uk

LBVH BOOK SHARE AND EXCHANGE

Please note that this event that was due to take place on

Friday 7th October has been postponed.

IBERIAN EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday 8th October at 7.p.m. at Much Birch Community Hall see ad further below for more details.

EVERGREEN CLUB

Our last trip this year will be on **Tuesday 11th October.**

PLEASE NOTE THE DIFFERENT PICK-UP TIMES!

We shall go to Ludlow and then on to Shipton Hall for the afternoon.

Cost £15.50 (includes entrance, tea and biscuits) £17.50 for non-members.

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

The pick-up times are:

Fonteine Court	9.00
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.05
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.15
M. B. Church bus stop	9.20
Tump Lane (bungalows)	9.25
The Park, Wormelow	9.30
Poor Clares Convent	9.40
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.45
Brandon Coach Depot	9.50

WHIST DRIVE

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 11th October** in Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at **7.30.p.m.** The entrance fee is £1.50. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

FLOWERS FOR ST.MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

Don't miss the opportunity to see Carola Wilson's fabulous floral demonstration 'Living the dream' created for the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society 2011 Show and reprised for two nights

only at The Courtyard, Hereford on **October 13th & 14th** in aid of St Michael's Hospice. Tickets are £15.00 and are available from The Courtyard Box Office on 01432 340555. For more information see www.bit.ly/carolasdream

PAMPERED CHEF

Robyn invites you to a **Pampered Chef evening** with cookery demonstration and tasting on **Friday 14th October 7.30** at **Little Birch Village Hall**. All proceeds to the MacMillan Renton Unit, Hereford. Further information. Robyn 540264

MUCH BIRCH W.I.

On the **18th October** Janet Griffiths makes a welcome return visit. The title of the evening is 'A Tapestry in Flowers'.

November is the AGM and December is the members' Christmas evening.

Potential new members and visitors are always welcome.

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

REMINISCENCE GET-TOGETHER

Following our successful Reminiscence Evening last March, the History Group was aware that a number of people had brought photos and memorabilia which they did not have an opportunity to show. In order to rectify this we are holding a **Reminiscence Get-Together evening on Thursday October 20th in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30**. This will be a much more informal affair where people will be able to show their memorabilia and

exchange reminiscences with each other over drinks and refreshments.

Please dig out those old photos/cuttings/papers etc. and bring them along to share with both long-standing residents and new-comers. The History Group would particularly be interested in any photos of the King's Thorn area and does anyone have a photo of Taylor's garage? Entry will be £2.50 to include light refreshments

HARVEST SUPPER

The Harvest Supper mentioned last month has been rearranged for **Saturday 22nd October at 7pm** in Little Birch Village Hall. Entertainment will be provided by the Gospel and Blues singer, Phil Cave. Please bring a plate, sweet dish and cutlery. Tickets will be available from John Caton 540267, Pauline Rogers 541201, James Gould 540676, Sue Jones 540682, Robyn Hodges 540264 or John Bryant 540316

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Tuesday 25th October, 7.30p.m. at **Much Birch Community Hall**. See ad further below for details.

LITTLE BIRCH AND KING'S THORN GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 26th October at 7.30pm** in Little Birch Village Hall, when the speaker will be Mr. Roger Turner, who will discuss 'The growing of Grasses and Ferns'. New members are always welcome. John Bryant 540316.

What do you call a stolen Yam?
- a hot potato!

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 **October 28th** we hope to see our usual three butchers, the baker, preserves and chutneys, handmade chocolate, cheese, vegetables and the Fair Trade stand.

Dan will be back after his summer break, to sharpen tools and knives (also rotary cutter blades)

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 other commitments.

Please contact Kath, 01981 540382 for further details.

MUCH BIRCH PCC - TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 29th October, 10.00a.m. at **Much Birch Community Hall**. See ad further below for more details.

LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL PANTOMIME

This year Jane Balen will be producing our **Family Panto 'Aladdin'** which will take place early in 2012.

Jane is seeking players and helpers of all ages to take part in this enjoyable event. Newcomers to the area and children will be warmly welcomed.

Note. Pantomime preparation and rehearsal meetings will be held on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm. through to December (except Friday 14th October...moved to Thursday 13th).

MUCH BIRCH 100 CLUB DRAW

The August draw took place on 14th August 2011 at 11am in Much Birch Community Hall. The winners were:

1. No 22 – Mr. K. Davies, Much Birch
2. No 3 – Mrs. S. Dymott King's Thorn

The September draw took place again at the Community Hall on 6th September 2011 at 7pm. The winners were:

1. No. 77 – Mrs G. Askew, Much Birch
2. No 35 – Mr. & Mrs. D. Wiseman, King's Thorn

The next draw will take place on Saturday, 8th October 2011 at the 'Iberian Extravaganza' to be held in Much Birch Community Hall at 7pm
John Jones – Chairman

ADVANCE NOTICES

ARTS ALIVE - LIVE MUSIC

The Steiner Academy, Much Dewchurch is delighted to have become one of the newest and best-equipped venues for Arts Alive, the organisation that promotes and tours live music, dance, theatre and puppetry and much more. In November, we have Sadio Cissokho, from Senegal playing and singing music from his home country. The date is **Friday 11th November**, the place Birch Hall, the Steiner Academy, tickets cost £10/6 child, family tickets are £30. The event is open to everyone and we would be glad of the chance to welcome you

for a wonderful evening. You can book tickets via 01981 540221 or online at www.artsalive.co.uk.

Note:

To hear a sample of Sadio's music go to

<http://www.eddbateman.com/sadio.html#Sadio>.

HEREFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

On **Saturday 19th November at 7.30p.m.**

at the Cathedral, Hereford Choral Society

will perform Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

Ticket information 0845 46 33 124

tickets@herefordchorsociety.org

LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 27th November. Including Christmas gifts, crafts, cakes etc.

£5 per table (booked in advance). For bookings tel: Sue Jones 540682 or Robyn Hodges 540264 after 6.p.m.

LBVH CHRISTMAS BINGO

Thursday 1st December.

LOCAL NEWS

An apology is tendered to **WILLIAM WHITE** of Lower Wrigglebrook, who was last month reported to be studying music at Monmouth. In fact, William will be studying at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. During the summer he became an Associate of the Royal College of Music and has been invited to continue playing in some concerts with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. So well done William, it looks as

though you have a very busy schedule.

As reported last Month, **JEAN LATHAM** sadly passed away just as the Newsletter was being prepared. Her funeral service took place at Hereford Crematorium on 17th August and a Service of Thanksgiving for her Life was held on 30th August at Hereford Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. Niels Waugh. Her husband, James, has given the following resume of her life. Jean was born in Birmingham in 1928 and attended the Grammar School in Erdington, admitting later that she was more interested in athletics and sports than in studying. In her final year, 1946, she was selected as a member of the first youth athletics team to visit Holland after WW2. She competed in the High Jump and ran the final leg of the sprint relay. She then spent 2 years at Lincoln Teacher Training College, studying P.E., Games and Home Economics. In 1948, Jean met James and they were married in 1951. She taught in schools in Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield until David was born in 1952, followed by Kate in 1954. She continued teaching on a part time basis for 6 years and played hockey up to County standard. Jean was then appointed Head of Dept teaching dressmaking and needlework at Riland Bedford and was also involved with producing costumes for Gilbert and Sullivan stage productions. She joined a flourishing Bretheren Assembly at Duke Street and was involved with flower arranging and catering.

Some 38 years ago, Jean and James decided to have a change of direction in their lives and moved to Hereford where they converted a large house into a small hotel. They joined Barton Hall Assembly and started a second business. Jean was asked to start a Bible Study Fellowship with a friend, Doris Gell, and they travelled to San Francisco for a month's training.

Their business interests in Hereford were sold and they moved to open a shop in Weobley, where they stayed for 6 years. In 1988, Jean and James retired to King's Thorn, where they involved themselves in numerous activities, including Much Birch Church with flower arranging, catering and Alpha bible study courses. James sang in the choir and Jean served as churchwarden. They joined the Meals on Wheels delivery team and also the League of Friends at Hereford Hospitals. They did house to house collections for the annual Poppy Appeal, Alexandra Rose Day and Christian Aid. They also joined the Halfway Theatre Company when it was formed. And what about those hats!! Jean was always dressed very smartly and had a wonderful collection of hats, suitable for any occasion.

Jean and James celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2001 and in 2006 decided that the garden was becoming a burden and so they moved to Whitecross in Dec.. They were able to see their family more frequently and delighted in their grandchildren. About two and a half years ago, Jean was diagnosed with cancer and

given 6 months to live. Typically, they met this problem head on and earlier this year, celebrated their Diamond

Wedding Anniversary. Jean had several spells in hospital and James selflessly gave her the utmost care. Both Jean and James were in hospital when Jean passed away but James was determined to be out for Jean's funeral service. Jean was a very proud mother, grandmother and became a great grandmother a few months before her death. Jean will be greatly missed by her family and so many friends and we send to James, daughter, Kate, and her family our heartfelt sympathies.

A number of friends have been in hospital recently for operations or treatment and we send our good wishes for speedy recoveries.

Many of our young people are off to college or University this term and we wish them every success in this new sphere of their lives. We send our best wishes to **RONAN GOODE** of 36 Tump Lane, and **WILLIAM and LEWIS PRATT** of 16 Tump Lane, who have just started their first term at Much Birch School.

ORNITHOLOGY

Summer came slowly to Little Birch, the long awaited return of Swallows and House Martins was a disappointment. The first birds stayed for a few days and then moved

on. Eventually greater numbers arrived, with the Martins attempting to refurbish their nests only to be promptly ejected by the resident House Sparrows. In due course

enough Martins were on the scene to regain control of the air-space and were able to commence nesting. It was interesting to see that as the season progressed the

Martins would seize every opportunity to divert from their normal flight-paths in order to harass the Sparrows.

Our regular garden birds seemed to have had mixed fortunes this year - larger ones having a poor breeding season, with often only one youngster following a parent Blackbird, Thrush or Robin. One exception (of course) were the Starlings who seemed to have more than their fair share of fledglings. The smaller residents were

more successful, the Blue-tits in particular seemed intent on keeping the Sparrowhawks well provisioned. Two pairs of Bullfinches arrived in late winter, staying around throughout the spring and summer, ultimately bringing their youngsters to the bird-feeder. These birds are still around, the unmistakable rosy-pink

colour of the male is always a striking sight, although its presence is not welcomed by fruit growers.

Later in the season the Warblers became more noticeable in the garden. These small yellow/green birds are not easy to identify; one exception is the Chiffchaff which

has black legs and an eye stripe, spending much of its time chasing away the resident small birds.

As autumn approached the Green Woodpeckers began their annual assault on the ants

in the lawn, the male bird having a red nape and a red chin-stripe. The female lacks the latter and the juvenile is heavily spotted and striated. The Great Spotted Woodpecker is an altogether different bird, predominately black and white with red markings, smaller than the Green Woodpecker and a more regular visitor to the garden.

At about the same time the Mistle Thrushes began to make an appearance, small flocks raiding the berries on a nearby yew tree. This bird is similar to the Song

Thrush but larger with a more upright stance and has darker spots or blotches.

Some absentees from the summer garden included :- Treecreeper, Nuthatch, Goldcrest and Wren; hopefully next summer will see a return of the once common residents. As the days shortened the feeding activity of the summer migrants became ever more frantic. Before long they will need great reserves of energy to help them on their hazardous flights to warmer climes (bon voyage). We wish them well and look forward to their return.

A.V.N. Matters

“There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before”

Robert Lind

“A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song”.

Chinese Proverb

MUCH BIRCH PCC

are very much in need of a Secretary for their PCC as the previous Secretary has moved away from the area. If you think you may be interested please contact Sylvia Jones on tel: 01981 - 540980 for more details.

WEST MERCIA POLICE NOTICE

Crime Trends

Overnight on 5th/6th September a brand new Toyota Hi-lux on a garage forecourt in Grafton was targeted by thieves who stole the side steps and two spotlights from the front bumper. Considerable

damage was caused to the vehicle in the process.

A red Massey Ferguson tractor **H187SAH** was stolen from a field in Bullinghope between 7.30pm on 6th September and 1.30pm the following day. It had been parked in a store in the field at the time.

A large amount of valuable copper cabling was stolen from a trailer in a field in Shenmore sometime overnight on 6th/7th September.

A recovery truck parked at a garage in Kingstone had items stolen from it overnight 8th/9th

September. The wing mirrors, wheel covers and two aluminium ramps were taken, and an attempt was also made to steal the catalytic converter.

A green Kawasaki KXF 250 motorcycle, a Honda CR 250 motorcycle and an orange KTM motorcycle were stolen from a motocross event at Walterstone at around 4am last Sunday morning (11th September). All were off road bikes, so no registration numbers.

A van was seen leaving the site and the registration number was taken - this vehicle had been stolen 3 weeks ago in Newport.

A Honda 21" cut, self propelling lawnmower was stolen from a front garden in Dewsall between 12noon and 12.30 pm yesterday (12th September). The owner had been half way through cutting his lawn and had gone in for lunch, leaving the mower on the path. A nearby toolbox had also been taken.

Since the beginning of August, around 10 - 15 fallow deer have been stolen/poached from a farm in Abbeydore.

Damage has been caused to a shed and some play equipment at Clehonger Primary School overnight last night. (12th/13th September).

Suspicious vehicles

More white Ford Transits to watch out for!

One was seen in Rotherwas last Monday 5th September at about 11.30am, the registration number was

W13*BOC. There were three males in the vehicle.

Another, with a registration similar to X90*ROC was seen in the yard of a farm in Wormbridge last Tuesday morning (6th). Again there were three males in the vehicle, aged between 25 and 40 years of age. This van had an orange light on top.

Yet another white transit, this time trying to sell tarmac, visited a property in Pencoyd last Wednesday 7th September. The registration number was WF5*ESU, it had blue and yellow squares on the sides. The driver gave his name as Mark Jones and was described as around 6'2", with a medium build and a chubby face with brown curly hair, in his early 30's. A dark blue Ford Transit DX5*XDU called at a farm in Wormbridge around midday last Saturday 10th, the driver was described as 6' with short hair and a 'harsh' face, traveller type.

Scams

This from Dee Naylor at Kington Police Station - I have just had a gentleman come into the Police Station today with some literature that he had received in the post from a Company called Vitamail.

Essentially they tell you that you have won up to £15,000! If you read their small print you will find that you would need to purchase some of

their (overpriced!) products which are advertised and then you will get placed in a prize draw. This company have been investigated by Trading Standards, but due to the fact they are not actually breaking the law, albeit sailing very close, there has not, as yet, been a successful prosecution. I would just like members of the public to be aware of this and similar scams that are operating up and down the country. It is just important to ensure that your elderly and more vulnerable members in the community are not duped by these scams.

Having spoken to Trading Standards in Hereford today there advice is that when you order goods online, even from trusted companies, make sure you request that you do NOT want to receive marketing literature from other companies, you usually have to tick a box if you want to select this option. ... remember if it sounds too good to be true then it generally is!

A lady in Little Dewchurch reported that she found a card that had been left through her door from a male who was interested in buying furniture and other household effects, with a name and telephone number. As the lady was moving house

she decided to call the male, who came round and they agreed a price for the items. He agreed to come back the next day and collect the items, and asked if she had any jewellery to sell. She offered a brooch which he agreed to buy for £60, he paid £30 there and then, and would bring the remaining £30 along with the cash agreed for the furniture the next day. He never returned, and despite several phone calls, she has had to accept that he never intended to buy the furniture in the first place, it was just a ruse to see what else there was in the house. Please be aware of any cards left offering such services, and let us know if you have been in receipt of one.

Results

Two unrelated addresses in Kingstone were searched for drugs by your Local Policing Team last week, and a quantity of class 'B' drugs were found at one address and a male arrested, and a quantity of class 'A' and 'B' drugs were found at the other, and a male was also arrested.

This was as a result of a 'tip off' from a member of the public.

Many thanks
Fiona p.p.

**Golden Valley & Hereford
Rural South Local Policing
Teams**

PS 3113 Robin Davies
robin.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.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 -
goldenvally.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or

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

Non - emergency number
0300 333 3000 - please
use this number to report
incidents

DRS DAVIES, JOHNSON, ENGLAND AND SEFTEL

MUCH BIRCH SURGERY - 2011 FLU CLINICS

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT
OUR FLU CLINICS WILL BE HELD ON:

SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER

and

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER

From 08.15 until 11.30 in the morning

Please collect your **PERSONAL** invitation
from Reception (after 20th September)
and bring it with you on the Saturday of your
choice

**Coffee and cakes will be available in the Hall afterwards,
kindly provided by
Mr and Mrs Dowsett in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support**



Come along for an
Iberian Extravaganza
At Much Birch Community Hall
Saturday 8th October 2011, at 7pm
Tickets £10 - to include a meal
Bar available
Proceeds for Much Birch Church

**Tickets only available in advance from
Lesley Gare (01981 540150)
or Sylvia Jones (01981 540980)**

