

Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury February 2012- First published 1977

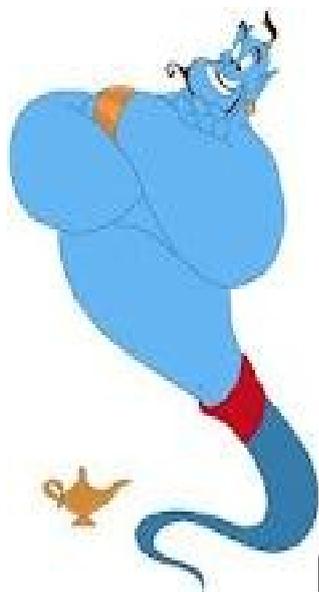
Diary dates

February

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2nd. Much Birch Parish Council MBCH | 23rd. Flicks in the Sticks MBCH |
| 3rd & 4th. Pantomime LBVH | 24th. Much Birch Village market MBCH |
| 11th. Book Exchange LBVH | 29th. Gardening Club LBVH |
| 14th. Whist Drive LBVH | |
| 21st. Pancake Evening LBVH | |
| 21st. Much Birch WI MBCH | |

March

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| 1st. Much Birch Parish Council MBCH |
| 13th Evergreen Club AGM MBCH |



LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL PANTOMIME 2012

A SHOW FOR ALL THE FAMILY

DIRECTED BY JANE BOLEN

Aladdin



**FRIDAY & SATURDAY 3RD & 4TH
FEBRUARY AT 7.30P.M.,
MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2.00P.M**

FOR TICKETS CALL 01981 541027 OR 540322 ADULTS £5 U 14 £3

Little Birch Village Hall Annual Pantomime "Aladdin"

Rehearsals are in full swing for what promises to be an un-missable family pantomime. Come and be impressed by the superb scenery, listen to the excellent jokes and especially see unbelievable magic tricks. This year we have a new director and new stars as well as fine performances from seasoned regulars.

New Years Eve Party

On New Years Eve our local band SOFA, with guest singers and dancers, gave us a tribute to Lady Ga-Ga much to the enjoyment of all those in the Village Hall. Additional entertainment was provided by Becky Cameron who played her guitar and sang some of her own songs. So 2011 went out on a high note and we hope that we will see more of these talented entertainers in future. Thanks to the members of SOFA for organising a fantastic evening.

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Much Birch WI

On February 21st we welcome Mr. M Watkins who will entertain us with 'Our Heritage. A Cabinet of Curiosities'.

WI meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382, for further details.

Whist Drive

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

Little Birch & King's Thorn Gardening Club

Duncan Coombes of Pershore College is our visiting speaker on Wed. 29th Feb at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall. Duncan is a very knowledgeable, enthusiastic and much travelled horticulturist and will talk on 'Chinese Lilies'. Everyone interested in gardening is welcome to attend. Contact John Bryant 01981 540516

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Local News

Congratulations are extended to RACHEL (nee Caton) and her partner, KYLE O'CONNOR, on the birth of a daughter, CHARLOTTE SEREN, who weighed in at a healthy 7 ¼ lb. Charlotte makes the third grandchild for Jenny and John Caton, who needless to say are very thrilled as is HARRY, with the arrival of a baby sister.

Our congratulations also go to RICHARD RIDDELL of Little Birch, who has been awarded a Master of Science degree by the University of Manchester. Richard is a Chemical Engineer and his studies included a dissertation on Advanced Process Design for Engineering and the Environment.

It is also good to report that WILLIAM HARRIS, son of Steve and Jacqui, of Eden Lane, King's Thorn,

was awarded a BA degree in Drama, with Honours, by Aberystwyth University last year.

William is now studying for a PGCE teaching qualification in English so that he will be able to teach 11 – 18 year old students in English and Drama. He has recently enjoyed a spell of teaching in Brecon and hopes to obtain a teaching post this coming autumn. Well done, William!

Many local residents will be surprised to hear that John Walker, erstwhile of Little Birch, was rushed to QEH, Birmingham after collapsing on Remembrance Sunday. His family are full of admiration for the medical staff at QEH after 8 weeks of intensive care. It was obviously a very worrying time for Bernice, Roxanne, Ian and Kate and their families and brother, Bill, and not helped by the constant daily travelling to Birmingham. The good news is that John was brought back to Ross on Wye in the first week of January and is receiving daily physiotherapy to restore all the muscles needed for walking. We send to John our best wishes for a speedy recovery and also to his family.

The response to a request for help with Meals on Wheels was most gratifying following the retirement of Drs. Beauchamp and John and Sheila Penrice, who have given such valuable service to the community over many years.

As far as this Newsletter is concerned, help with printing is still being sought and may be seeing how the printing is done before any commitment is made, can be arranged. Offers of help please to John Bryant on 540316.

It is a pleasure to report that a Digital Projector has been purchased for the use of organisations which have their meetings in Little Birch Village Hall. It will not be kept on the premises. The purchase was made possible by donations from Little Birch Parish Council, the King's Thorn and Little Birch History Group and the Village Hall Committee.

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Report from Much Birch Parish

Council Meeting of 1st December 2011

All parish councillors were present at the meeting as were Ward Councillor Mr. Russell Hamilton, and three members of the public.

Apologies were received from CSO Witcher and Mr. Dick Brimacombe.

An interest was declared on agenda item 18.1 by Cllr. Glen Sims.

A report was given by the Ward Councillor which included the following topics:-

The LDF Consultation closed on 28th November. Over 2000 responses have been submitted and will now be analysed. The outcome of which will inform the full Council when it takes a decision on the way forward next summer.

Youth services are being reviewed with the aim of targeting the most vulnerable.

Community Libraries being developed at Orcop, and Garway. Important, if interested, to let the Local Councillor (me) know and to put parish names forward soon. County library service is being responsive, will supply books and shelving if needed.

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Bus services, Garway Bus 412, an example of how it is hoped to support rural services by linking them to tourism with local bus routes that were previously heavily subsidised. It is hope to not only make bus services more viable and hopefully self sufficient but

to encourage those who use them, to support local businesses.

A review of brown and white signs is being carried out by one of the Council's Task & Finish Groups. It is hoped that the emergent policy will be more flexible and to help to support local businesses.

There is an ongoing review by one of the Council's Task & Finish Groups who are looking at the planning process.

The Ward Councillor is working with Chamber of Commerce, who are willing to put on events to help people, and support businesses, hope of some (free) seminars. Anyone who is interested should let him know.

The Chairman opened the meeting to allow for public participation. A member of the public raised two issues, the importance of the Parish Boundary Review, and Beacons for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. Another member of the public reported that works required to parish footpath MB24 had now been carried out.

The financial report was noted and all payments listed were approved for payment. It was resolved that Cllr. Mike Smith should be added to the signatories on the Parish Council's bank accounts.

MURPHY'S PAW



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It was resolved to purchase a lockable filing cabinet. There was some discussion concerning the upkeep of the Memorial Clock at Much Birch Church. It was decided to defer this matter to the next Ordinary Meeting whilst further thought was given to the matter. Progress on the Winter Self-Help Gritting Scheme was noted, and it was resolved to delegate powers to the Chair and Vice-Chair to purchase a towable grit-spreading machine. A working group was formed to progress the project, five of the six parish councillors volunteered. It was resolved to delegate powers to this working group to finalise the gritting route, draw up a specification for the gritting contractor, to seek quotes from interested parties and to appoint a contractor.

Defects to be reported to AMEY included numerous potholes at the top end of Hollybush Lane, with a request that the top end of the lane be included in re-surfacing works and damaged grit/salt bins.

Thank you letters to be sent to The Ramblers, and the parishioners who helped the Parish Council by cutting their hedges along The Thorn.

The Lengthsman was to be asked to clear debris from hedge cutting from some ditches along Barrack Hill.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd February, starting at 7.30p.m. in the Much Birch Community Hall.

Please note that this is not the official record of the meeting. The minutes of a Parish Council meeting are the official record, and these only, once signed at the next meeting as a true record.

If you have anything you would like to raise with the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk, Mo Ross on 07530 – 789447 or by e.mail

muchbirchclerk@btinternet.com



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FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

REACT

Pancake Evening

You are invited to sample and enjoy fresh home-made pancakes with delicious fillings both sweet and savoury. Draw and refreshments.

Tuesday 21 February, Little Birch Village Hall, from 7.30pm. All welcome. Entrance £2 (includes two pancakes.) 50 pence per additional pancake!

Proceeds in aid of refurbishment of LBVH.

Words on Birds

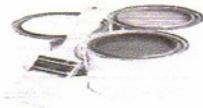
(From a Little Birch resident A.V.N. Matters)

The autumn skies seemed strangely empty following the departure of our summer visitors; the **swallows**, **martins** and **warblers** are now hopefully enjoying the benefits of warmer climes. It was anticipated that the onset of autumn would bring its usual influx of **winter thrushes**, however this year the numbers of **redwings** with their distinctive eye-stripe and **fieldfares**, slightly larger with pale grey back, are surprisingly low. One result of this is that the fallen apples and other fruits are still lying uneaten on the ground in January! Our resident thrushes, the **song thrush** and the **mistle thrush** are making a regular appearance; the mistle thrush is the larger, with a song containing brief phrases followed by long pauses often produced in wet or windy weather. Both of these birds have already started to sing - a foretaste of the Dawn Chorus?

common farmland bird, are rarely to be seen locally. **Magpies** are all too common - more and more appear each year, posing a threat to eggs and nestlings in the coming breeding season. **Jays** are much in evidence at this time of the year; these colourful birds are pinkish/buff above, with white underparts and a black tail. They feed mainly on acorns in winter, but may take eggs and young from nesting birds in spring and summer. With luck, in early spring, you may see large numbers of **carrion crows** congregating in a tree top, making a great deal of noise and creating a general commotion before dispersing in pairs or small groups to a seemingly pre-arranged destination. Also in early spring, **ravens** may be seen indulging in their courtship display which can include some spectacular aerobatics - even inverted flight! often harassing the local buzzards while emitting an unmistakeable "cronking" call.

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Corvids are fairly common, **jackdaws** with their blue eyes and grey heads are to be seen in small flocks almost everywhere. The **carrion crows** are larger and tend to appear singly or in pairs. **Ravens** are often seen in our area; they are larger than crows and can be distinguished by their massive bill or wedge-shaped tail when in flight. **Rooks**, allegedly a

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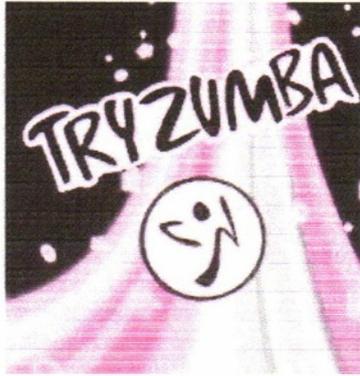
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Our regular garden birds have been well represented this winter. One particular delight is the sight of small flocks of **long-tailed tits** feeding together. This often "entails" a group with their heads at a central point with tails radiating outwards, seemingly like the feathered spokes of a rimless wheel - surely one of the prettiest garden birds.

Should you wish to bring more birds into your garden in a cost effective way, try embedding some mild cheddar cheese into the bark or crevices of a tree. This should attract numerous species including **tree-creepers**, small brown birds with a down-turned curved bill; nuthatches, blue/grey upper parts and a strong chisel shaped bill, often feeding in a head down position. Other cheese lovers include **blue**, **great and long-tailed tits** and inevitably **starlings**.

*“Oh says the Sparrow, my love is gone,
She so much that I doted on,
And e'er since for that selfsame thing
I've made a vow I ne'er will sing.”*

John Clare (1798 - 1864)



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Church Crawling

(From a Much Birch resident)

One of the best areas for Church Crawling - visiting churches in the country- is Herefordshire and the Marches of South Shropshire. All you need is a good map, a guide book which hopefully tells you where to find a key if necessary, a torch (often light switches are locked away in the vestry) and a notebook and pencil.

Church guidebooks are found in the Cathedral bookshop or in Pilgrim's Progress bookshop in West Street, Hereford. I recommend John Leonard's "Churches of Herefordshire & their treasures" (Logaston Press), "Discovering the smallest churches in England" (History Press) and a new book with small sketches of the churches and A4 size so rather heavy to take about, "A Hundred or more churches in and around Herefordshire" by Ralph Fennell, a Methodist minister recently retired now living in

Chester. He includes several over the border, including the Quaker Pales Meeting House (on the road to Llandrindod Wells) which we visited recently and were shown around by a dog. Then we sat outside in the November sun and enjoyed the view, feeding some of the sandwiches to our watchful guide.

Don't forget that Hereford has some interesting chapels and churches which you can get into without much trouble. For example Rotherwas chapel key is kept in the local garage and is so close to the Council tip that you can combine a visit to it with one to the tip. Then there is the delightful chapel at Conningsby hospital, with glass from the redundant chapel at Harewood End, that has its own skeleton under the floorboards and is open regularly during the summer months. The Longworth chapel is slowly being repaired after vandals tried to burn it down., and the key is kept at St Michael's Hospice.

For details of the chapels open in our county, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire see "Chapels with Houses in the Heart of England" due in March from Fineleaf Publications and to be given a special promotion by Rossiter Books of Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth.

Finally if you want a human guide to take you round 6 churches in a day, then join the Hereford Historic Churches Trust and they run annual crawls in the spring, not by coach but in private cars as so many of our best churches are hidden away sometimes in fields.

Perhaps those of you who have lived in this area longer than me will write in and describe their favourite churches.



WANTED

**FIELD TO BUY OR RENT IN
KINGSTHORNE AREA FOR TWO
HORSES.**

PLEASE CONTACT

01981 540453

The Evergreen Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Evergreen Club will be held on Tuesday, 13 March, 2012, at Much Birch Community Hall, commencing at 2.30pm. It will be followed by tea, biscuits and the chance to chat. All are welcome.

Much Birch Village Market

As usual the Market will be held on the 4th Friday of the month, February 24th, in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm and 4.30pm

We have a regular group of local suppliers, including Moor Meals, The Squeaky Pig, and Llandinabo Farm Shop with meat (sausage, pork, Dexter beef, free range chicken etc.) Mark makes chutney and jams.

Cheese is provided by Castle Cheese and home-made, filled pancakes by Anthea. In addition there is a Fair Trade stall. Ray, our chocolate maker, will not be with us for a while as she is expecting her baby any day now. We wish her all the best and look forward to seeing her before too long!

We also have a craft stall, and Dan, who sharpens knives, garden tools and patchworker's rotary cutter blades!

Much Birch WI has a book stall, raising money for their charity of the year. This year the charity is the Cobalt Trust, a cancer charity. Last year's charities, The Hereford Eye Scanner Appeal and Herefordshire Talking Newspapers, each received a cheque for £124.55. Many thanks to everyone who supports this stall.

Refreshments are sold in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

Please join us in showing support for local suppliers. For further details please contact Kath Watts, 01981 54038

Little Birch Parish Council

Report of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2012

No interests were declared. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2011 were read and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Police Update – Sgt. D. Boote was introduced by CSO. F. Witcher and reported no crimes for this area although neighbouring area crime was highlighted with a brief discussion on SmartWater.

County Councillor's Update - Cllr. R. Hamilton was unable to attend.

Village Hall – A volunteer has offered to take over the editing of the newsletter. Various activities planned in the near future including Pantomime, Whist Evening, Pancake Night and a Quiz.

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FLICKS IN THE STICKS

at Much Birch Community Hall

Thursday 23rd February at 7.30 pm -
ONE DAY 12A

Based on David Nicholls' brilliant book, this is a delightful tale of two college friends who meet once a year to catch up on each other's lives. July 15th, 1988, Emma and Dexter spend the night of their college graduation together. They experience life through laughter and romance, heartbreak and exhilaration, and for the next two decades, every July 15th we see how they are faring, as their friendship ebbs and flows with the passing of the years.

Coming soon...

Saturday 10th March 2.30pm - **ARRIETTY** U
(from the makers of *Spirited Away* and *Ponyo*)

Wednesday 28th March 7.30pm - **RESISTANCE** PG
(much of the film was shot locally!)

Refreshments including hotdogs available from 7pm

For further information about films and screenings
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Tickets £4 (£3 under 16s)

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further
info or to book tickets
please call Bryony Connolly 01981 580298

Parish Lengthsman Scheme – A walk around the Parish to be completed by Mrs. E. Godding, Mrs. A. Clarke and the Clerk.

Winter Gritting – Clerk to send to Parish Councillors, the current draft contractors contract received from the Clerk at Much Birch Parish Council who has ordered a towable spreader. A further meeting to be arranged.

Parish Initiative (PC-Iris) – A list of all outstanding defects was given to the Parish Council.

Community Led Plan - Representatives from the Steering Group informed the Parish Council that the Questionnaires have been collated and passed onto the Research Department at Herefordshire Council.

Parish Field – Tugwell Trees have almost completed the clearance work.

W.M. PARTINGTON

GENERAL BUILDER

- MINI-DIGGER & EXCAVATOR HIRE

RENOVATIONS BARN CONVERSIONS NEW BUILD EXTENSIONS	ROOFING CONCRETING PLASTERING GROUNDWORK	UPVC WINDOWS AND DOORS BRICKWORK STONEMWORK
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RING FOR A QUOTATION

MUCH BIRCH
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Parish Precept – Mrs. A. Clarke kindly offered to clean the Notice Board adjacent to the Castle Inn and Clerk to decorate. Site meeting to be arranged to discuss the possible installation of signs to show the way to the Ancient Camp. Clerk to contact Herefordshire Council for advice/costs on completing such a project.

It was agreed that the Parish Precept be raised to £2700 based on the following estimations:

Clerks Salary & Expenses	£850.00
Training	£300.00
Newsletter	£200.00
Village Hall Fees	£100.00
Data Commissioner	£50.00
Insurance	£400.00
HALC Subscription	£150.00
Annual Audit	£200.00
Winter Gritting	£400.00
Contingency	£50
Total	£2700

The Castle Inn – The current initiative, Community Resilience, was discussed where community ‘assets’ could be documented.

Methodist Chapel – Since the Chapel has now ceased as a Place of Worship, Mr. J. Dillon to investigate ownership and feedback to the Parish Council.

Queens Jubilee – A local landowner has offered the field known as the Glebe for the possible location of a Beacon. Steering Group to be created by Mrs. A. Clarke with representatives from Little Birch Village Hall Management Committee, the Parish Council and other local residents to discuss possible events for the Queens Jubilee in more detail.

Ordinance Cottage – A copy of the surveyors report was received from Herefordshire Council which has completed this issue.

Training Courses – 2 courses were attended. Clerk to investigate a Bursary Scheme from HALC for contributions towards training costs.

Japanese Knotweed – Site visit with landowner to be arranged.

Parish Council Meetings Frequency – The Parish Council agreed to continue with the current meeting period of every two months.

GLAZY DAYS

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Community Book Exchange

The next “**Book Exchange**” will be on **Saturday 11 February 10-12a.m. at Little Birch Village Hall**. It was good to see so many people in January who were able to choose from a large and increasing stock of books to suit all ages and a variety of interests. They also used the opportunity to meet with friends over a cup of tea/coffee. There is a charge of £1 per adult towards the cost of hall hire, heating and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you in February.

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

I would like to thank everyone who is supporting us once again during 2012. There is still time for further entries though by giving me a call on 01981 540980

The January draw took place on 8th January 2012. The winners were:

1. No 35 –Mr & Mrs D. Wiseman, King's Thorn
2. No 42 – Mrs. A. Symonds, Hereford

The next draw will take place on Tuesday, 7th February 2012 at 7pm in Much Birch Community Hall
John Jones – Chairman

Andy and Sue

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Parish Clerk Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Clerk for Little Birch Parish Council. General office administrative duties including minute taking, word processing, emailing etc required for approximately 2 hours/week with a Parish Council Meeting every 2 months. Please contact Liz Callwood on 540081 or lizcallwood@googlemail.com for further details.

The Castle Inn

The last 2 weeks at The Castle Inn have not been well supported. I can appreciate that times are hard especially after Christmas, however it has taken 2 years to get our local up and running again and I feel that we are all becoming a little bit complacent. You all know the saying "Use it or lose it".

Valentines day is rapidly approaching so why not pick up the phone and book a table for your loved ones.

How many people drive into Hereford for a take away meal at the expense of fuel and the environment? Well Katie at the Castle does a lovely Thai takeaway. All you need to do is phone in your order 540756 or turn up and order your meal and have a pint whilst Katie cooks your lovely fresh take away.

Now that we have some dry sunny frosty weather, good dog walking conditions on the weekends, why not stop off at The Castle as all well behaved dogs are welcomed in the bar area (even the muddy wellies of the owners).

January and February can be pretty miserable months with loads of us suffering with SAD syndrome, which is why its another good reason to get out and support your local pub and make new friends and support a vital community asset.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

Sandra Cameron

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Prize Draw Winner

Little Birch Community Led Plan Steering Group are pleased to announce that the winner of the questionnaire's prize draw is Mrs Joyce Allsebrook of Wyndrussell, Little Birch. A cheque for £50 will be given to Joyce in the next few weeks. The questionnaires are currently being analysed by the Research Department in Herefordshire Council and residents will be informed of the next process as soon as any results are known.



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Winter Road Gritting

Little and Much Birch parish councils are close to making an agreement for spreading salt/grit on some local roads to reduce the dangers in case of ice and snow. The work will be done by a contractor expected to be appointed in the next few days using a spreader purchased by Much Birch parish council. The salt/grit has already been supplied free by Herefordshire Council/Amey and is stored in Little Birch. Spreading costs will be shared. It is anticipated that gritting works will be carried out typically between the hours of 1.p.m. and 4.p.m. The scheme is not intended for, and indeed it will not be possible, to deal with *all* minor roads and tracks in the two parishes. It has been decided that

top priority must always be given to Barrack Hill and The Thorn, as all will be aware, this is the area that has given so much difficulty in the past. The intention is to grit from just above the Methodist Chapel, all the way down Barrack Hill and up The Thorn; and from Barrack Hill, past Castle Nibole, The Castle Inn, down Pendant Pitch, and along New Town Road, past Sunnybank, and around passing Crossways; then along Little Birch Road to its junction with Barrack Hill and from Crossways to Much Birch church. There is a limited amount of salt/grit supplied, and we shall need to see how far that supply will stretch, once this is known, we will then decide whether it is possible to consider any further areas for gritting.

Salt/grit bins will continue to be filled by AMEY, and if one near you needs re-stocking please contact either of the parish Clerks as they can report directly to AMEY, enabling a faster response. For bins in Little Birch contact lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk and for bins in Much Birch contact muchbirchclerk@btinternet.com

Both parish councils would like to take this opportunity to remind people of two important things. Firstly, the salt/ grit is supplied for use on the roads, it is **not** for personal use on residents' paths or drive-ways! Bags of salt/grit for domestic use can be purchased from Asda, Rockfields, B & Q and the like, relatively inexpensively. Secondly, that only a small amount of grit is needed in order for it to be effective.

This is an experimental project, and everyone is on a learning curve. This is the first time that the two parish councils have worked closely together, and we are pleased with the levels of co-operation we have experienced so far. The costs incurred in this first year will be found from existing budgets. If the scheme is successful and the decision is taken to run it next year, an increase in the parish precepts might be necessary.

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Police Briefing

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to one and all, and lets hope that 2012 sees a reduction in crime in our rural areas.

With your continuing vigilance and support it will be achievable, so please continue the good work and keep the calls coming in! Also, please spread the word about the briefings, currently they go out to 700+ residents and businesses that we know of, but the more eyes and ears out there the better!

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Crime Trends

About 35 litres of diesel were stolen from a tractor in a field in **Blakemere** overnight on 22nd/23rd December. A neighbour had called police out just after midnight as he had seen torches in the field, but no-one was found on police arrival.

Between 4pm and 11pm on Christmas Eve, a red and grey vintage Massey Ferguson FE35 tractor was stolen from a shed in a field in **Clifford**. There was no registration plate, it had a brand new blue link box on the back.

A green Daihatsu fourtrack **J510MJF** was stolen from a driveway in **Madley** overnight on 28th/29th December, and found in the early hours of the morning, ablaze at Ridgehill.

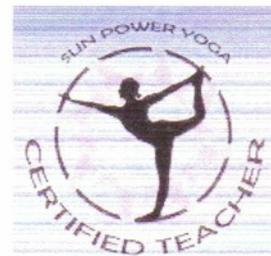
An air compressor was among items stolen from a shed on a farm in **Llanwarne** overnight on 28th/29th December. The compressor is described as a black coloured 50 kilo air compressor with a yellow coloured pipe attached and an orange coloured extension lead.

A number of vehicles in **Madley** had their tyres slashed overnight on New Years Eve, and a van also had damage to a wing mirror and a sign had been ripped off.

Several parts from a heavy farm roller have been stolen from a field in **Dorstone** over the past couple of weeks, presumably for scrap.

Between 1st and 9th January, a metal field gate was stolen from **Ruckall Lane, Clehonger**.

Between 8pm last night (Tuesday 10th Jan) and 7.30 this morning, a grey Toyota pick up M983PFO was stolen from a farm at **Eaton Bishop**.



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Amanda Hamilton

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Suspicious vehicles

A green Ford Fiesta V42*XFC was seen around the **Thrupton** area on several occasions before Christmas. It was seen in the afternoon of Friday 23rd December with 4 males inside. The only description was of the front seat passenger who was described as heavily built and aged between 25 and 30 years.

A blue and silver Mitsubishi tipper truck L20*RGH with a trailer called at a farm in **Clifford** yesterday asking for scrap. There were three males, described by the caller as 'undesirable looking'

Scams

Residents continue to receive scam calls emails and letters. They sound too good to be true. Don't be tempted!

Police are reminding everyone not to send money to unknown individuals to release further funds, however believable the story sounds. Never give out bank details.

Anyone who has given out bank details in a situation like this should contact their bank immediately. Those who have lost money to any scam like this should report it to Action Fraud **0300 123 2040**. This is a useful number to make a note of for future reference.

Farewell and Welcome

Sergeant Robin Davies has recently left Local Policing to move to work in Hereford, where he is taking up an Inspectors post on the response teams. We wish him well in his new role, and thank him for his hard work and commitment here, we will miss him.

We have a new Sergeant, Dave Boote, and I'm sure he will be making himself known to the communities here and at Ross on Wye in the next few months, we all wish him a warm welcome.

Police Contact Information

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams

PS 3236 Dave Boote

dave.boote@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

PC 2368 Chris Lea 07855 785080

PC 2176 Wendy Powell 07811 131525

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07779 141232

CSO 6366 James Cooke 07779 141223

CSO 6482 Katie Middleton 07779 141223

E-mail -

goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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Help needed desperately!!

We are in great need of a Secretary for Much Birch Parochial Church Council and would be grateful for any offer. The task would not be too onerous and just someone to be a Minute Secretary for the 5 meetings a year would help considerably. We could manage any other (small) secretarial needs. If you can help please contact Sylvia Jones on 01981 540980