



# Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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

## Diary Dates

### September

26th Gardening Club Molecatcher Special LBVH

28th. Village Market MBCH

### October

1st Parish Councillor information evening MBCH

4th Much Birch Parish Council MBCH

6th Book Exchange LBVH

9th Evergreen trip to Baddesley Clinton

16th Womens Institute MBCH

### October

7th. Harvest Thanksgiving LB Church 6.30p.m.

18th Herefordshire railways talk LBVH

26th Village Market MBCH

30th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

31st Garden Photography LBVH

### November

23rd & 24th Down Memory Lane MBCH

### December

31st. New Year's Eve Party LBVH

### Missing

Felix, a white long haired cat. Last seen at home on 14th September.

If sighted please contact the Goddings at Shirley Cottage

### Found

A mobile telephone outside Little Birch Village Hall on 21st August. Call 01981541027

### November Newsletter

Please send copy for November Newsletter to [birchesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:birchesnewsletter@gmail.com) or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close by the 18th. October.



### Little Birch Pantomime 2013

## Jack and the Beanstalk

(Director Jane Bolam)

Auditions will take place at:

**Little Birch Village Hall on  
Wednesday 3rd. October**

Children from 6.30p.m.

Adults from 7.30p.m.

Come along and join in the fun.

Experienced or inexperienced

Young or old

Actors or stage hands

**All are welcome**

## **Herefordshire Council**

### **Flooding**

Following the heavy rainfall this year the Council is compiling information about locations susceptible to flooding. Information can be found at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/floods](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/floods).

In case of local flooding the Little Birch Parish Council maintains a small stock of sandbags. They can be collected from the old military brick building opposite Castle Nibole.

### **Community-Your Say**

Herefordshire Council are encouraging local residents to be vocal about the services that are important to them at a series of events will take place at venues throughout the county in September and October. For more information see [www.yourcommunityyoursay.co.uk](http://www.yourcommunityyoursay.co.uk)

### **A selection of Police Notices Wednesday 12th September 2012**

#### **Callow**

An Abbey Carnival 318 4-berth caravan was stolen between 8.30pm and 9.20pm on Tuesday 4th September from a unit at The Old Mushroom Farm. A dark coloured Ford Focus containing two males was caught on CCTV entering the site at 8.30pm, and leaving, with the caravan, at 9.20pm. The registration number of the vehicle was obscured. The caravan, which had been displaying the registration number VK02JUY had been parked up behind locked gates and had clamps on both wheels. The padlock to the gate had been cut off, and both wheel clamps had been forced off.

Incident ref 84-s-050912

#### **Clifford**

A quantity of red diesel was stolen from a tractor parked in the village overnight on Tuesday 4th/Wednesday 5th September.

Incident ref 154-s-050912

#### **Dinedor**

A 75 year old lady from the village, who also has a property in Little Birch was stopped in her car by officers in Hereford, her car was seized as she has no driving licence or insurance.

#### **Garway**

About 500 litres of red diesel was taken from a tank in a field adjacent to an isolated property on Garway Hill between the 1st August and 3rd September.

Incident ref 58-n-030912

34 sheep were stolen from Garway Hill sometime between 15th July and 9th September. They were Texel cross Mules, 22 ewes and 12 lambs, but there were no markings on them as they had recently been shorn.  
Incident ref 184-s-100912

#### **Grafton**

A 29 year old male was arrested on Thursday 6th September in a joint investigation with Trading Standards officers into an allegation of fraud. Enquiries are ongoing.

#### **Kingstone**

A small fire was started by children at around 11am on Monday 3rd September in a stubble field near Coldstone Cross, it was extinguished by the Fire Brigade before any real damage was caused. The identity of the culprits is known, and enquiries are continuing.

Incident ref 243-s-030912

#### **Orcop**

A Swift challenger 560 caravan worth £10,000 was stolen from a campsite overnight on Sunday 9th / Monday 10th September. The offenders came across fields to the back of the campsite and took the caravan from a long row of caravans. They forced off the ball hitch lock and left it at the scene. The caravan was displaying the registration number WJ06HXM at the time of the theft.

Incident ref 24-n-100912

#### **Another scam to be aware of**

A lady called in at the station yesterday to report that she had received a telephone call from a representative of the 'Government Claims Department'. The caller, who had an Indian accent, asked the lady her name and address and then told her she was eligible for a refund for overpaid bank charges. He asked for her bank card details, which she refused to give him. He then told her to ring another number to arrange another way of getting the money due to her. She duly rang the other number and spoke to a male giving his name as Robert Sinclair. He instructed her to go to the Post Office and withdraw £210 (this is to cover the solicitor's costs in making her claim!) She was then to ring the number again, and would be given an account number to pay the cash back into at the Post Office. Then, she would receive a cheque for £6000, personally delivered to her home address by Mr Sinclair!! Fortunately, the lady had smelled a rat and called in to report it before going to the Post Office. PC Powell did call the number and a

male did answer giving the name of Bob Sinclair, but he became very cagey when she revealed she was a police officer and refused to answer any questions, no doubt that telephone number has been changed by now!

### **Stolen Property at Peterchurch Police Station**

As a result of a search of an address recently, we have a number of hand and power tools at the station that may be stolen. Three of the items have already been positively identified as stolen from break-ins on the patch, and PC Powell is hoping more items will be identified. We have been contacting all victims of crime where such tools have been stolen in the six months up to 18th August and asking them to attend the station, but if you think we may have missed you from the list, please get in touch on 101 ext 4820 and we can tell you what is still outstanding.

Best wishes Fiona

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

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

### **Events at the Cathedral this October Wednesday 3 October**

St Guthlac: Hereford's forgotten Saint. The Cantilupe Lecture given by David Whitehead drawing out and developing some of the ideas about St Guthlac's Minster, which pre-dated the cathedral. Lady Chapel, free entry / no booking required. 4 pm (tea from 3.30 pm).

### **Saturday 6 October**

Royal School of Church Music Festival Service: choral evensong sung by around 200 members of church choirs from around the diocese. 5.30 pm

### **Sunday 14 October**

The Evening Hour; a service of prayer for healing and wholeness with words and music from Iona and Taizé and time for quiet reflection; all are welcome. The service is held on the second Sunday of each month. 5.30 pm

### **Wednesday 17 October**

Money, Wealth, Credit and Crisis: the first in a series of seminars about controversial social and religious issues. The first seminar will be led by the Revd Dr Edmund

Newell, Sub- Dean of Christ Church, Oxford. Contact 01432 374225 to confirm venue and to book a place. £5 including a glass of wine. 7 pm

### **Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 October**

The Allpay Flavors of Herefordshire Festival to be staged in, among other locations, the Cathedral Close.

### **Monday 29 October**

Focus on God: the first of an eight week series led by the Revd Dr Maureen Palmer in which participants will examine the mystery and depth of God's love. Place limited: 01432 374225 to book. £25 for whole course. 10.30 am

### **The Evergreen Club**

Our last trip this year will be on Tuesday 9 October. We are going to the National Trust property, Baddesley Clinton. There will be a brief stop at Evesham Country Park on the way.

The cost is £15 inc. entry to the house (£17 for non Evergreen Club members).

National Trust members please bring your card for a £7.50 reduction.

For enquiries or to book, please ring Bridget on 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

### **HALFWAY COMMUNITY THEATRE**

We are pleased to announce that our next show:

### **“DOWN MEMORY LANE”**

Will take place on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th November

at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

We will entertain you with some of our most popular songs and tunes, plus new items to surprise and delight!!

Tickets £10 to include a light supper (but please bring your own drink and glasses) tickets are available from: Audrey Crowte – Phone 01981 540432

## **Little Birch and King's Thorn Gardening Club**

### **Annual Horticultural Show**

This great Annual Event - usually referred to as THE SHOW ! was another success this year. It was held in the Little Birch Village Hall on Saturday 1st September and the weather was kind.

This popular Show is brought to you by the hard work of the Little Birch & King's Thorn Gardening Club and is looked forward to by many in the area. Not only as a splendid display of green fingered expertise, cookery, floral art and the many children's exhibits too, but also a great gathering of friends and neighbours.

The committee was worried there would be a lack of entries this year because of the bad growing season we have had. But we need not have worried. The number of entrants was up and so were the entries. The vegetable numbers were up and the Flowers section had a big rise, as did the Floral Art Section. The Domestic Section was not so well supported, but the Children's Section was, as always, very popular.

The Llewellyn Sutton Cup, for the family with the most points, was keenly fought for again. 8 members of the Humby family battled to come third behind the enthusiastic Johnson family. The Cup though, went to Derek Scrivens and his two grand daughters.

Barbara Wilson won the Davis Enoch Cup for the Best in Show. She won this last year for another of her wonderful Flowering Pot Plants with a different Judge; she really has a magic touch.

The Horticultural Shield was won by Vic Townsend, the Harold Salisbury Shield by Derek Scrivens and the Rose Bowl by Des Wathen.

Sally Dymott won the Domestic Cup, Iris Lloyd took home the Floral Art Shield again and the new Photograph Cup was won by Janet Gwinnett.

The Children's Shield and the Cup for the under eights was won by Elizabeth Howard and Poppy Burton just pipped Cerys Johnson by one point to win the over eights Cup.

Many thanks go to the Club organisers and helpers, to all those who entered and to all the visitors, especially those who stayed for the Auction of produce. The money raised here and with the refreshments, helps us to pay for this show, which is free for all the community to enjoy.

We are already planning next years show, so be part of it! If you would like to know more about the Gardening

Club come and join a meeting or contact John Bryant - 01981 540316 - you will be very welcome. Looking forward to seeing you all again next year!

Gillian Clouder - Show Secretary

### **MOLECATCHER SPECIAL**

#### **Wednesday 26th September**

Presented by Jeff Nicholls with scenery, sounds, lights, special effects and a few surprises.

Members Free, Non Members £5

Not to be missed. Please be seated by 7.15pm

For further information please contact

John Bryant 01981 540 316

#### **Wed. Oct. 31st. at 7.30pm.**

'An illustrated introduction to Garden Photography' With Nick Stephens. How to get the best shots.

New members always welcome. Meetings are held in Little Birch Village Hall.

#### **Much Birch 100 Club Draw**

The September draw took place on 11th September 2012 in Much Birch Community Hall at 7pm. The winners were:

1. No 77 - Mr. J. Clark, Exeter, Devon

2. No 48 - Mr. D. Jones, Much Birch

J Jones Chairman

#### **Much Birch Choir Concert**

If you missed the Forest of Dean Male Voice Choir Concert with Jayne Swann as the superb supporting soloist you missed a very enjoyable evening listening to renditions from such composers as Rogers & Hammerstein, Gershwin, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Dylan Thomas and Offenbach. The programme also included the well received song which struck a local chord entitled 'There's a Land Between Two Rivers' by Dick Brice, referring to the area between the Rivers Severn and Wye. Following the concert everyone retired to the Community Hall for refreshments and an 'Afterglow' of impromptu singing and monologues by members of the choir. We look forward to a future visit by them and Jayne.

A big thank you must be expressed to the Fundraising Committee for all their hard work in the organisation of the event and to all those people who supported the event with donations of food and prizes and of course to all those people who supported us by attending the evening. We raised over £800 for the Church and we are very grateful to you all.

#### **Much Birch Parish Council**

Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright

Longfield House

Gooses Foot,

Kingstone

Herefordshire

HR2 9NE

Tel. 01981 250860

Email: [muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Meeting held on the 6th September, at the Much Birch Community Hall, Councillors were addressed by members of the public about Parish matters and heard an update from Ward Councillor Russell Hamilton about Herefordshire Council and items relating to local concerns. The area Police Community Support Officer was also present and gave an update on crime trends. Some correspondence about overgrown verges and road issues had been received and would be receiving attention. The Parish Council will be continuing to work in close contact with Amey Wye Valley and the Lengthsman to keep roads and paths etc. fit for purpose.

**There will be a Parish Councillor Information Evening on Monday 1st October at the Much Birch Community Hall (Arthur Harris Room) at 7.30pm. The evening is being organised by the Hereford Association of Local Councils (HALC) and the purpose is to provide information as to how you can become a councillor and help to make a difference to your local community by contributing to decision making and ideas.**

Full minutes of the meetings etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link found in this summary. [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 4th October, 7.30pm at Much Birch Community Hall. Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

### **History Talk in Little Birch Village Hall**

Gareth Davies will give a talk entitled 'Slow train in a sleepy land – Herefordshire through its old railways' in Little Birch village hall on Thursday October 18th at 7.30. This well illustrated talk promises to be full of interest both to those who remember travelling on the old railways and to those who may not know much about them. Gareth Davies is a very amusing speaker who will guide us gently through the Herefordshire countryside as it was in times gone by. Do come along. Entry £3.00 to include light refreshments.

### **Much Birch WI**

Much Birch WI takes place in Much Birch Community Hall, signed just off the A49, on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

On October 16th our friend, and member, Shirley Coates, will entertain us with a further instalment of her fascinating life story.

Potential members and visitors are always welcome.

Please ring Kath, 01981 540382, if you would like to know more about Much Birch WI.

### **Much Birch Village Market**

The Village Market takes place on the 4th Friday of the month in Much Birch Community Hall, signed just off the A49, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

On October 26th we hope be welcoming our usual local suppliers: the award winning Squeaky Pig, producers of rare breed pork and delicious sausage (including Gluten Free, made to order): the award winning Moor Meals, producers of Dexter beef, ready meals and pies: Jane Symonds represents Llandinabo Farm Shop, bringing, among other things, chicken, duck, and lamb: Castle Cheese, Mr. G's chutneys, jams and pickles, filled savoury pancakes will be brought by Anthea, Trefor will be here with quiches, both savoury and sweet and, after many requests, a vegetable stall. Sarah Snell will be bringing along apples and pears together with fruit juices.

There is a Fair Trade stand, a craft stand.

Dan will be back, after his summer absence, so bring along your tools for sharpening ready for Autumn pruning.

Much Birch WI has a book stall, raising money for The Cobalt Trust, its Charity of the Year.

Refreshments are made and sold by Chris and Peter, all the proceeds of which go to McMillan Cancer Support. This information is correct at the time of writing.

However, because of events out of my control, I cannot guarantee attendance by everyone mentioned.

Our Village Market needs your support in order to continue bringing local food to Much Birch.

For further details, please contact Kath, 01981 540382

### **Local News**

Lynette and John Roberts are proud to announce the marriage of their eldest daughter, Lucy, to Mr. Peter Hall of Hereford. The wedding took place on Wed. 12th September at the Castle House Hotel in bright sunny weather. The happy couple then flew to Monaco for their honeymoon. We send our best wishes to them for a long and happy marriage.

The funeral service for Mr. Alan Brown of Hollybush

Lane, took place on August 15th. at Hereford Crematorium and was conducted by the Rev. Mark Johnson. The eulogy was given by his son, Sir David Brown. Alan was educated at Darlington Grammar School and was a first class student and excelled in cricket.

Alan met his wife to be, Marjorie, at dancing classes in Darlington. They were married for over 65 years and had a son, David and a daughter, Elaine. He was an outstanding engineer and became Borough Engineer, Surveyor and Architect for Warrington at the age of 38 and is listed in the 'Who's Who of British Engineers'. During World War 2, Alan was based at The Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough.

Alan and Marjorie moved to Much Birch some 40 years ago when he was appointed to Head the Wye Division of the Welsh Water Authority based at Broomy Hill. Meanwhile, Marjorie continued as a Justice of the Peace in Hereford, having started that vocation earlier in Darlington.

Both David and Elaine graduated from University and their parents were obviously proud of their achievements. Sadly, years later, Elaine contracted Muscular Sclerosis and has been housebound for many years, being well cared for by her husband Phil.

David followed in his father's footsteps to become another well known engineer and businessman and was knighted some years ago. David and his wife, Denise, have 2 sons, Matthew and Andrew, who themselves have graduated from University with distinction. Alan and Marjorie have delighted in their grandsons when they visited Hollybush Lane.

Alan was a member of Hereford Rotary and Hereford Probus Club for many years.

When the Welsh Water Authority had a major split into several divisions in the late 1970's, Alan retired.

Unfortunately, some 20 years ago, Marjorie's arthritis developed badly and Alan has given her his fullest care. The sufferings of Elaine and Marjorie who he profoundly loved troubled him greatly and would have tested any man in his late eighties, but he coped extremely well until he became another victim of the so-called improvements when he fell in High Town 2 years ago. He battled on and with help was able to keep the home going.

So we say farewell to a man who had an engineer's eye for detail and rigorous record-keeping, influencing many others during his life time.

Donations given in memory of Alan were given to the Muscular Sclerosis Society. We send our sincere sympathies to Marjorie, David and Denise, Elaine and Phil and to grandsons, Matthew and Andrew.

The funeral service for Mr. Ernie Hoyes of Little Birch took place at Hereford Crematorium on August 28th. He was 82 years of age and came to live in Little Birch from Hereford on his marriage to Doris (nee Rooke), who sadly predeceased him in 2004. Ernie spent all of his working life in the building trade and was a master plasterer, his skill being in great demand especially in the restoration of old buildings.

Ernie and Doris had 4 girls, Pauline, Annette, Tessa and Jackie and Ernie was a very good gardener and kept his growing family well supplied with fruit and vegetables. He was a keen observer of nature and in his retirement, spent many hours enjoying the birds visiting his garden. He had not enjoyed good health for many years and had managed his diabetes and been very well looked after by Annette and the family. He enjoyed his 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren and we send our deepest sympathy to all the family.

It is also sad to record the passing of Mr. Bill Rowan of Little Birch and we send our condolences to Margaret, Helen and Hilary and their families. A tribute to Bill will be given next month.

Our congratulations to Nicholas Snell and Judith Mueller of Treberva Farm, Much Birch, on their marriage on Saturday 4th August. The Civil Ceremony was held at Caradoc Court and the Reception was at Treberva Farm. Nicholas has for the last 5 years been an engineer with Rolls Royce working in Berlin, where he met Judith. In July she obtained a Doctorate in Biology and would like to continue working in Medical Research. Nicholas and Judith have now taken up residence at Treberva Farm where Nicholas is farming with his parents George and Sarah. We wish the newlyweds a long and happy life in Much Birch.

Welcome to Much Birch to Mr and Mrs Lloyd who have just moved into Number 41 Tump Lane.

Ashley Weston of No. 1 Tump Lane has just started studying Sports Journalism at London University of Arts. We wish him every success with his course. He formally studied at Much Birch School and Kingstone High School.

### **Little Birch Village Hall Committee**

#### **Dog Show**

This years show was blessed with good weather and was very enjoyable with lots of familiar dog owners and a few new ones taking part. A highlight of the afternoon was the "Best Six Legs". First place went to Iris Lloyd and Blodwen accompanied by much applause and laughter on viewing their outfits!

Thanks are due to Maggie Mullins for finding such a

good judge and to Kate and John Dillon for use of the Glebe field. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped with preparation, clean-up and provision of cakes.

### **Community Book Exchange/Lending Library**

The Book Exchange continues to do well. Several new people came in September. The next meeting will be on Saturday 6 October 10-12a.m. at Little Birch Village Hall. A large selection of books to suit all ages and a variety of interests will be available as well as an opportunity to meet others 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 there.

### **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive will be on Tuesday 9 October in Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30.p.m. The entrance fee is £ 2.00. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

### **Little Birch Village Hall Advance Notice for your diary**

#### **“New Year’s Eve Party” at LBVH.**

By popular request the LBVH committee have once again arranged a New Years Eve Party (with disco by DJ Wolfie). Details of tickets etc will be advised in the November edition of the newsletter. We look forward to everyone coming together to share and enjoy this community event.