



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury April 2013. First published 1977

Diary Dates

March

27th Gardening Club AGM LBVH

April

4th MB Parish Council MBCH

9th. Annual PCC MBCH

9th Whist Drive LBVH

9th. Evergreen Club trip to Oxford

16th Womens Institute MBCH

April

20th Book Exchange LBVH

21st Farm visit Merrivale Farm

23rd Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

26th Village Market MBCH

27th Rhayader Male Voice Choir MB Church

May

18th Plant sale & coffee morning MBCH



Farm Visit

Merrivale Farm

Sunday, April 21st.

2.30-4.30 p.m.

Tractor & Trailer rides to see the
Bluebells in Athlestans Wood

Cream Teas

Adults £6, Children £3
(All proceeds to local charities)

For details and to book call 01981 540032



Jacinthe des bois.

This visit follows requests at the well attended illustrated talk

A Year in the life of a Dairy Farmer

by Sue & Bob Mason in November

Village Market

Much Birch Community Hall

April 26th. 2.30-4.30 p.m.

May Newsletter

Please send copy for the April Newsletter to
birchesnews@gmail.com or written contributions
to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury
Close by 18th. April

Local News

It is good to hear that Andy Holley who had an horrific motorcycle accident some 8 months ago, is able to move one leg slightly and is feeling slight pain in the toes of the other foot. He is at home and being extremely well cared for by his wife, Katy, (nee Williams, daughter of Anita and Graham Williams, of Little Birch Road, King's Thorn). Andy keeps in very good spirits and we wish him well on his road to recovery.

Some older residents will remember Andy's grandfather, George Holley, husband of the late Hilda (nee Andrews). George has been a resident of The Weir Nursing Home for about 6 months and had suffered a stroke a few weeks ago. Sadly, after a second stroke he passed away at the age of 97. He had lived in Much Dewchurch all his life and marvelled that having served in the forces during WW2, he had reached this great age. "I just don't know how I have got here" was a favourite reply when asked how he was keeping. The funeral service will be held at St. David's on March 27th. Our sincere condolences are extended to daughters, Katherine and Julie and their families and to daughter in law, Eileen.

Olivet Lewis is making slight progress in Brockhampton and can move around more easily with a battery-powered wheel chair. She sends her best wishes to everyone in the community.

Andy Lowe recently underwent a 56th. operation on his foot and hopes that this will be the end of operations for some while. We send our best wishes to him and wife, Lesley, who has looked after Andy so well.

John Bryant BEM

The bunting decorated Little Birch Village hall for the second time in nine months-firstly for the Queen's diamond Jubilee and then for the presentation of the British Empire medal to John Bryant. The sun shone through the vases of daffodils on the window sills making it an even more special occasion.

After the sponsors had told us something of his help to so many over the years, Lady Darnley, Lord Lieutenant for Herefordshire the Queen's representative, made a moving speech and presented John with his medal. John said a few words including thanks to his wife Betty for her help and support and she was presented with a

basket of flowers.

A toast was drunk to the Queen followed by three hearty cheers for John before the audience of around 90, comprising friends and representatives the organisations he belongs to, sat down for tea. Lady and Lord Darnley stayed on to chat to many people before departing. Many villagers came to offer congratulations to John.

Photographs of the event will be displayed in the Hall for all to see.

It is unlikely that the Hall will ever have a reason to celebrate such an occasion again-but you never know!

Jackie Morley

Thanks from the Bryants

Betty and John Bryant send a huge 'Thank You' to all who made the 2nd. of March, such a memorable day.

The Village Hall Committee and others have worked tirelessly, arranged for the Hall to be decorated so beautifully with spring flowers and patriotically with Union Flags and bunting and provided a wonderful spread of refreshments. It was an occasion for residents to get together and enjoy one another's company and John wishes to dedicate the award to the whole community. The Lord Lieutenant was absolutely charming and put everyone at their ease. She sent a handwritten letter to say how much that she and Lord Darnley had enjoyed the afternoon.

So, thank you again to all who came to make it such a special day and for the many letters and cards expressing good wishes and thanks. We feel it is a privilege to live amongst such lovely people.

Little Birch Parish Field Update

During April Parish Field will need to be prepared for seeding so some willing people with rakes will be needed. Then after that seeding will be carried out and, again, some willing people will be needed to help. We are not sure of the dates yet but look out for notices on Parish Field for dates. We obviously cannot fix the dates until the time and weather are right. Please come along and be part of our Jubilee project for the community. The creation of a wild flower meadow is to be in memory of Joan Rees who was very interested in this project.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Alison Clarke

Snowdrops in Parish Field

Lots of you will have seen the display of snowdrops in the Parish Field recently. I thought I could donate a number of our own snowdrops (about 200 maybe) to add to these when they have 'gone over' at the end of March. I then wondered if there are more of us with a few snowdrops to spare that could be dug up and moved. How about 2012 snowdrops to plant to celebrate last year's Jubilee? If anyone else is interested we could have a community planting in early April. Call Mike Leigh on 540698 and lets get moving – the snowdrops that is!

Polite Notice

Car Parking in Church Lane, Much Birch

Following damage sustained to the churchyard perimeter wall and the manhole cover set in the pavement outside the Community Hall, drivers of vehicles are requested not to park on the pavement for the following reasons:

1. Parking on the pavement obstructs the use of the footway for pedestrians
2. Parking restricts the width of the lane causing large vehicles to squeeze through causing damage to the verge and the church wall
3. Eventual damage will be caused to the drainage pipe work which is located at a shallow depth below the pathway surface
4. Damage to the structure of the pavement will occur if the practice continues.

Drivers of vehicles are requested to co-operate on this matter and are advised that alternative parking is available approximately 70 meters beyond the hall.

Consideration in this matter will be appreciated (incidentally the pavement was financed from Community Hall funds during the reconfiguration of the hall car park which is provided for the users of the hall premises).

John H. C. Jones, Chairman Much Birch Community Hall Management Committee

Sugar Craft Demonstration with an Easter Theme

A very pleasant and informative evening was held in Much Birch Community Hall on Wednesday

13th March 2013 when Mrs. Sue Kirby from Ross-on-Wye, and a member of the British Sugar Craft Guild, gave an enjoyable and instructive session on her Sugar Craft. (A remark was passed that it was incredible that with 40 women present a pin could have been heard to drop!) At the end of the evening a cake decorated and donated by Sue was raffled along with other draw prizes. Light refreshments were also served. In total a profit of £279.15 was raised for Much Birch Church. We are very grateful to Sue and everyone who supported and attended the evening to benefit the Church.

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The March draw took place on 10th March 2013 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am. The winners were:

1. No 19 - Mrs. J. Hounsell, Much Birch
2. No 80 - Miss. N. Salter, Much Birch

The next draw will take place 14th April 2013 at 10.30 am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones Chairman

Plant Sale on 18th May 2013

Much Birch Church are organizing a Coffee Morning, Plant Sale and Bring and Buy Stall on Saturday 18th May 2013 in Much Birch Community Hall from 10am until 12.30pm. We would be grateful for any donations for this event particularly plants, so please if you have any spare seedlings you are planting out please put some in a pot now ready for the sale.

Much Birch Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held in Much Birch Community Hall on 9th April 2013 at 7.30pm. A welcome is extended to all church members and members of Much Birch Community to attend to hear about the work of the church during the last 12 months and to explore ideas for the future. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served.

Princess Trust

Sarah and Graham Dean and family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to their wonderful neighbours, friends and customers for their

support over the last few months. The good wishes, kind words, offers of help, cards, gifts, flowers, food parcels and donations to the Little Princess Trust have all been very gratefully received and to date we have raised nearly £4000 for this amazing charity. It's been super to do something so positive and we'd like to thank Much Birch Surgery, Little Birch Whist Drive, Much Birch Village Market as well as all the lovely individuals for their help in turning a difficult time into something constructive.

Much Birch WI

We enjoyed an excellent evening when Mrs Smith enthusiastically shared her experiences of being a volunteer at the 2012 Olympics. On the same evening we also held a Bring and Buy which was well supported by our very generous members. On April 16th members are looking forward to an evening with Karen Van Hoff, speaking on 'Couture Accessories'. An opportunity to learn a few tips for looking good this summer. Visitors and potential members are always warmly welcome.

For more information regarding the Much Birch WI please contact Gillian on 01981 540080

Much Birch Village Market

MBVM takes place on the 4th Friday of the month (except December), in Much Birch Community Hall, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. The April market takes place on the 26th. The Squeaky Pig, award winning suppliers of locally reared rare breed pork, sausage, including Gluten free (to order) and bacon. Moor Meals, award winning, local suppliers of Dexter beef, ready meals and pies. Llandinabo Farm shop, Castle Cheese, Mr.G's chutney and preserves and vegetables. There is a Fair Trade stand and a craft stand, selling cards, aprons, shopping bags, children's T-shirts and sleep suits. Dan will be there to sharpen knives and garden tools. Refreshments and 'take home cakes', the proceeds of which go to MacMillan Cancer Support, are supplied by Chris and Peter. As far as I know at this time, all the usual suppliers will be with us..

Please support our producers who bring local food almost 'to our door.'

If you would like to have a stall, or to find out more

about the market, please contact Mark on 01432 278026

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on Saturday 20 April at Little Birch Village Hall. A large selection of books to suit all ages and interests are available and for 2013 we have some new books and a small and growing collection of DVDs.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable social event. There is a charge of £1 per adult towards the cost of hall hire, and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you. Note. Thank you to all who have kindly donated books for our Exchange. We regret that at the moment we are unable to accept further book donations as we have run out of storage space. We will keep you updated!

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 9 April 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.

The Evergreen Club

Our first trip this year is to Oxford on Tuesday 9 April. Here we can sightsee on the open-top buses or on foot. Visit colleges, museums, Botanic Gardens or simply go shopping.

The cost is £8 (£10 for non-members)

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
Poor Clares Convent	9.10
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.15
Much Birch Church bus stop	9.20
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.25
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.35
Fontaine Court	9.45

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

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Meeting held on the 7th March, at the Much Birch Community Hall, Councillors were addressed by members of the public about the possible affordable housing ventures to be built within the Parish. There would be a further consultation event in April, but at the time of the meeting, the Parish Council had not received notification of any application. It was stated that a special council meeting would be held to discuss any applications. CSO Witcher gave an informative and interesting talk on the property marking solution known as “Smart Water”. This was effectively “chemical DNA” and each kit had a unique composition making property marked with it traceable to the owner. The chemical would not wear off, could not be washed off and has been carbon dated to 115 years longevity. To use it you dab a small amount onto your item(s) and also register the kit to the secure data base. The chemical is invisible to the naked eye but shows bright green under ultra violet light. Signage is displayed which acts as a deterrent because any stolen property can be identified, as such, by checking the smart water markings and registration. Kits are available directly from the Police (Contact CSO Witcher) at a reduced cost. Cllr Russell Hamilton gave an overview of the draft Core Strategy for Herefordshire and advised parishioners that they could comment and consult on the proposals via questionnaires and on the Council Website. Another reminder, to everyone, is that we are still looking for willing volunteers to join the Parish Council. Come along to a meeting, and find out how you can join in, or contact the Clerk, or any of the other councillors, for details of how you can make a difference to the community by being part of the Parish Council.

Your Much Birch Parish Councilors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703

Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com and tel. 01981 540090

Cllr Andrew Crum Anfield House, Barrack Hill,

Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail a.crum@btinternet.com
Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Terry Cook Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703
Cllr Jon Norris Whitewells, Laskett Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HZ, e mail jon@jonnorris.co.uk Tel. 07944 301250

Full minutes of the meetings and information etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link found in this summary.www.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 4th April 2013 at 7.30pm at The 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.

Little Birch and King's Thorn Gardening Club

George Always from South Glos. will talk on 'Fruits for a small Garden' at the next meeting on Wed. April 24th. at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall. George has visited us 3 times over the last 10 years and gives down to earth practical advice having created his own 1 acre garden several years ago. New members are always welcome.

John Bryant 01981 540316

Little Birch Village Hall Quiz

The well-attended annual quiz on 8th March was won by the "Wholly Smoke" team led by Jon Norris of Lasket Lane.

Police Briefing Saturday 9th March 2013 South Herefordshire & Golden Valley

Crime Trends

Callow

A quantity of wood was taken from a pile on private land at around 6.30am on Sunday 3rd March. The theft was witnessed by the owner of the wood who took the registration number of the vehicle concerned and reported it to police. Enquiries are ongoing, and the matter will be dealt with by means of Community Resolution as requested by the victim. Incident ref 624-s-030313

Kingstone

A red Honda quad bike, an Echo petrol chainsaw and a leaf blower, make unknown, were stolen from a farm in the village. The quad was in a locked farm building, the padlock was forced off but another was left in its place! This happened overnight on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March
Incident ref 99-s-050313

Peterchurch

Between 6.15pm on Friday 1st March and 3pm on Saturday 2nd March, a stone outbuilding in the garden of a residential property was broken into and several tools were taken. These included a Husqvarna chainsaw 365xp with Oregon chain bar, a Stihl longreach petrol hedgecutter and a Stihl strimmer.

Incident ref 421-s-020313

****GUH This is a blue/grey Mitsubishi pick up that has been seen in the Madley area recently. The driver alarmed a girl who was out for a walk near her home by asking her if she wanted a lift and asked where she was going. He was described as around 40 years of age with dark curly hair. He drove past her a couple of times while she was walking. Incident ref 550-s-040313

Scams

The following e-mail was sent to one of our readers last week, it is another scam where someone is trying to get hold of your personal details

Dear btinternet member

At this moment we are currently upgrading our data base so that there will be more space for new customers. To prevent your Email address from closing, you need to assist us by sending the information below to enable us upgrade your Email address. username: password: confirm password:

Thanks for your understanding as it is our responsibility to serve you better.

Terms of use btinternet Member Service

Note - if you sell scrap to callers at the door, please make sure you see a valid Waste Carriers Licence, otherwise you too, would be committing an offence if the callers did not have a Licence!

I am going on extended leave from Tuesday 12th March until Thursday 2nd May (travelling with my daughter!) so Katie will be sending out the briefings in my absence, any feedback etc to the team inbox -

goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Thanks for taking the time to read our briefings, I'll leave you in Katie's capable hands for now!

Best wishes

Fiona

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams

PC 2176 Wendy Powell 07811 131525

PCSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07779 141232 07779 141232

PCSO 6482 Katie Middleton 07779 141223 07779 141223

E-mail -

goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Non emergency number 101

And Finally A Spike Milligan Limerick

A man who was asked out to dinner,
Came home looking hungry and thinner;
He said: "Don't look baffled,
The dinner was raffled,
And somebody else was the winner."