



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

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

## Diary Dates

### May

29th Gardening Club LBVH

### June

2nd The Big Lunch MBCH

4th Much Birch Parish Council MBCH

11th Whist drive LBVH

11th Evergreen Club Visit

12th Little Birch VH AGM

15th Book Exchange LBVH

### June

18th Womens Institute MBCH

22nd Sausage Sizzle MBCH

26th Gardening Club Visit

28th Village Market MBCH

30th Violet Szabo Gathering-Museum

### July

2nd Neighbourhood Planning LBVH

6th Clothes Sale MBCH

11-13th 'allo 'allo LBVH

13th LB Church Fete Old Rectory



## Little Birch Village Hall

(Arranged in French cafe style)

A comedy by

David Croft and Jeremy Lloyd

(Authors of the 85 episodes  
of the hit BBC TV series)

Directed by  
Jane Bolam

Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
July 11, 12 & 13th at 7.30 pm  
Tickets available from June 1st  
£8 each to include food. Adults only

Call Iris on 01981 540068  
or Jackie on 01981 541027

**Please note change of date for Little  
Birch VH AGM now June 12th**

### July Newsletter

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

## Much Birch Church

### Past Events

The Rhayader and District Male Voice Choir and Soloist Jayne Swan provided a superb evening's entertainment in Much Birch Church on 27th April. Excellent refreshments were enjoyed in the Community Hall afterwards, during which time there was some informal community singing. A great evening raised £850.

A very successful Smarty's Ex Chainstore Clothing Fashion Show was held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 14th May and despite the pouring rain the event was well attended and the Hall was full. The local models were very impressive and although they started off quite nervously they all eventually enjoyed the experience! The audience were able to take advantage of a discounted clothes sale at the end of the evening. £500 was raised for the Church.

A Coffee morning with a Plant Sale and a Bring and Buy stall held in the Community Hall raised another £500 on Saturday, 18th May 2013. It was a very pleasant morning enjoying the beautiful sunshine.

We would like to express a very sincere thank you to the Fund raising Committee and friends who worked so hard to ensure that these events went well and were successful. We would also like to say thank you to all those people who so kindly donated items for the events and supported us on the day. You are helping so much towards keeping Much Birch Church open.

### Future Event

We are holding another second-hand Clothes Sale in the Main Room of the Community Hall on Saturday 6th July from 10am until 3pm. Coffee and Tea available.

### Farm Visit

Thanks to everyone at Merrivale farm for organising the tractor and trailer ride to Athelstans wood and back for a cream tea. Unfortunately the bluebells were not in flower owing to the cold weather but the Wood Anemones made it a worthwhile visit.

It was a cold afternoon although the promised rain kept off and the weather did not seem to worry the

children.

Emily kindly gave a share of the proceeds to village hall funds and still had a sizable donation for her charity Race for Life.

Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.

Jackie Morley

## DEMOCRACY FIRST – YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

•Are you worried about how changes in services will affect those living in your local area?

• Would you like to take a more active role within your community?

If you would like more information, or a friendly, informal chat please contact Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive, HALC on the Democracy First Information line 01432 355701 or by email on [Lynda@halchereford.gov.uk](mailto:Lynda@halchereford.gov.uk). Lynda is also very willing to come out to give a talk to local community groups and if you feel this would be useful please contact her.

### Neighbourhood Development Planning

Are you interested in how the area should be developed in future?

The Localism Act 2011 that came into force in 2012 gave parishes the right to prepare a neighbourhood development plan

A neighbourhood development plan can establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, like:

- where new homes and offices should be built
- what they should look like

The plan can be detailed or general, depending what local people want.

Neighbourhood plans allow local people to get the right type of development for their community.

Local parish councils are considering whether or not to prepare such plans, either individually or together. If you would like to know more about it and possibly get involved, come and hear a presentation by Herefordshire Council representatives at,

**Little Birch Village Hall  
on Tuesday 2 July at 7.30 pm.**

## HISTORY TALK

A good audience gathered to listen to John Bothamley of the Hereford Civic Trust talk about 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly', a talk organised by the History Group.

A wide range of photos of buildings were shown including international, national, county and local buildings, most of them modern. The audience were asked for comments with a view to discovering which people thought were to become heritage of the future.. The audience, being generally a rather conservative lot, probably disappointed the speaker, as the only building which was thought to fit the bill was the Mappa Mundi building! Many disagreed with the speaker, feeling that the Gherkin would also do so. However, there was a very interesting discussion about the selection and all felt it was a most enjoyable evening.

Alison Clarke

## LITTLE BIRCH CHURCH FETE

Will be held at the OLD RECTORY, by kind invitation on Sat July 13th starting at 2pm. A 'FAMILY TREASURE HUNT' will start at The Old Rectory at 1pm and should take about an hour searching for clues in the locality, returning in time for the opening of the fete. Details from Janet Gwinnett on 01981 540651.

We are again fortunate to have members of the 'Crookers Ash Scratch Band' to provide 'live music'. A Grand Draw, Cake Stall, Bottle Stall, Book Stall, Veg and Plant Stall and a 'Bric a Brac table are some of the attractions and offers of prizes and items for these stalls would be greatly appreciated.

On the Book Stall, Jane Rodd would appreciate up to date fiction and childrens books. Phone Jane on 01981 541353.

There will be a series of 'Childrens Races and so fun for all the Family. Offers of help to John Caton 540267, Pauline Rogers 541201, James Gould 540676, Janet Pugh 540662, Steve Turner 540090 or John Bryant 540316 please. Offers of bric a brac to Lynette and John Roberts 540692. Many thanks for all offers of help, items and produce.

## Local News

Best wishes and Congratulations are extended to Mrs. Shirley Gemmell and Victor Townsend, who both celebrated their 90th. birthdays in May. Sadly,

Shirley had to give up driving a few months ago but Victor's N reg Vauxhall is still going strong. We wish them both good health over the coming years.

Congratulations also go to Margaret and David Stringer of Little Birch who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary this month. We trust they will have many more years of happiness together and still put on the 'leathers' to enjoy 'biker holidays' for a few years yet.

Several friends in the community have had operations recently and others are awaiting calls to hospital. Please remember all of them and their families in your prayers.

The whole community has been stunned by the sudden death of Les Jenkins at the age of 78. Les and Pat were on the Evergreen Outing on Tuesday, 14th May and Les was on good form exchanging stories of bygone years with his old friend, John Roberts of King's Cuple. In the evening, Les and Pat attended the Whist Drive at Little Birch Hall. It was an awful shock to his partner, Pat, to find that when she called the next day, he had passed away in his sleep. To Pat and Les' sons, Malcolm and Paul and their families, we send our sincere condolences. A fuller tribute will be given next month.

We are also sad to hear of the death of Mrs. Kathleen Paine of Pennypit Farm at the age of 101 years. We send our deepest sympathy to daughter, Glenys, son in law, Brian and to their family.

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

On June 26th, there will be an evening outing to Wall End Nursery, Stoke Prior, near Leominster, which specialises in some unusual plants and Abutilons. Meet at Kingsthorpe Bus Shelter to depart at 6.15pm sharp. Cost £5 incl Refreshments

On Wed. July 24th. there will be an evening visit to Brilley Court gardens the home of Mr.&Mrs David Bulmer. Meet at Kingsthorpe Bus Shelter to depart at 6.15pm sharp. Cost will be £4.

The Gardening Club Open Show will take place on Sat. 7th. September with a 'Workshop' for children on Friday, 6th. Sep at 4.30pm in L.Birch Village

Hall.

Everyone interested in gardening is invited to become a member for only £10 per year.

John Bryant 01981 540316

### **The Evergreen Club**

On Tuesday, 11th. June, we are going to the old market town of Stow-on-the-Wold.

In the afternoon, we go to the attractive small villages of Eastleach Martin and EastleachTurville, where we shall have tea.

The cost is £12 (£14 for visitors) to include tea and cake.

For enquiries or to book, please ring Bridget on 01981 540932.

Pick up times are:-

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45am
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Poor Clares Convent	9.10
King's Thorn Bus Shelter	9.15
Much Birch Church bus stop	9.20
Axe and Cleaver bus stop	9.25
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.35
Fontaine Court, Ross on Wye.	9.45

### **Violette Szabo's Museum**

The thirteenth Memorial Gathering is to be held on Sunday, 30th June.2013 at The Museum, 'Cartref House', Wormelow at 2pm.

Anyone who would like to join us would be most welcome! Perhaps you might be kind enough to bring a few refreshments and a folding garden chair!!.

A London Gentleman, Mr Frederick Pearson, is planning to bring a Pipe Band to honour Violette. The Band, the Epping Forest Pipe Band, is to be in the Park, Wormelow at 1.30pm to head the procession of Standard Bearers as they march to Violette's Museum. This is very exciting for me as I have always longed to achieve the presence of a band for Violette on one of her special days and this year is the year!!

Rosemary Rigby MBE.

Owner and Founder of the Museum.

01981 540477

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

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

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on Saturday 15 June at Little Birch Village Hall. All

members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable monthly event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs ( to suit all ages and interests,) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for "a good read". We had a good attendance last month and have recently received a donation of more DVDs. With the threatened possible closure of our public libraries you might like to consider using this local facility in the future. The July 'Book Exchange' will be held on Saturday 20 July as the hall is being used on 13 July for the final performance of the local production of ' Allo-Allo. There is a charge of £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire of hall and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you on 15 June!

### **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 11 June 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 AGM**

Please note change of date! Wednesday 12 June 2013 7.30 at LBVH

The LBVH committee wish to invite all members of the community to attend the LBVH Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 12 June 2013. The evening will enable you to hear reports about LBVH activities over the past year and the committee would welcome suggestions for additions to the programme for 2013/14. Refreshments will be available.

### **Parish Field**

Many thanks to all those who came to help to rake, prepare and, a week later, seed the area. Thanks also to those who provided welcome refreshment. It was good that it rained soon after but it would grow much better if only it gets a bit warmer!

The area is mostly seeded with a wildflower/grass mix but the area round the seat and a path round the field are seeded with grass only. When it has grown well the grass area will be kept mown, (any offers gratefully received!) and the rest will be left until autumn and strimmed once a year.

Until the grass has grown well please would you all keep off the area – and your dogs.

This has been an on-going Jubilee project but the costs of seeding and treatment have been covered by a generous donation from Tony Rees and family

in memory of Joan who always liked the idea of a wildflower meadow. We are very grateful to them. Thank you all again. We hope it will give pleasure to all served.

### **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 Annual Parish Meeting held on the 2nd May 2013, at the Much Birch Community Hall. The first part of the meeting was the Annual Parish Meeting at which parishioners were invited to talk to the Council and a resume was supplied re the previous year's activities. A new Clerk had been welcomed and also two new councillors. There had been updates from West Mercia Policing and the Ward Councillor, Russell Hamilton. Also contributions about local issues from parishioners, for which the Parish Council are always grateful, as it is when feedback is given that actions can be taken to get things done. The Self Help Gritting Scheme had come good and the combined efforts had kept the locality on the move when the weather did its worst. There was some concern expressed over fast and heavy goods traffic in Tump Lane and this included the safety of pedestrians on the way to and from school, and at other times. This will be an agenda item for the meeting in June and this will include the possibility of looking into a request for a weight restriction on the road.

The Annual meeting of the Parish Council then followed with the election of Chair, Cllr Alison Cook and Vice Chair, Cllr Steve Turner, plus Footpath Officer, Cllr Andrew Crum. There was a brief report from Cllr Hamilton which will be followed by publication of his full bulletin. Councillors were then appointed to the relevant working groups, such as planning, and the business of the Parish Council continued.

A reminder that your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, email [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com) and

tel. 01981 540090

Cllr Andrew Crum (Footpath Officer) Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail [a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com) Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Terry Cook Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wyenet.co.uk) Tel. 01981 540703

Cllr Jon Norris Whitewells, Laskett Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HZ, e mail [jon@jonnorris.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

The next Meeting of the Parish Council, will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday June 6th at the Much Birch Community Hall, and will be another opportunity for all parishioners to come along and talk to the Parish Council about the issues that matter to them. Please see notice boards and website for agendas.

### **Little Birch Parish Council**

#### **Footpaths officer**

The post of Footpaths officer is vacant. Anyone who is interested in walking and would like to be considered for the position should contact the Mrs Sophie Glover, Clerk for Little Birch Parish Council, The Orchard, Ridgehill, Hereford HR2 8AG Tel: 01432 270499

email [littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Much Birch WI**

Much Birch WI hold meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

On June 18th we look forward to hearing from Mike Harris whose talk is entitled 'Secrets of the Hives', a subject which so concerned the National Federation some years ago that it was on the Resolution list, to be discussed at National level.

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

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

### **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 June market takes place on Friday the 28th. 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. Mark is hoping there will be a fish van in the car park. 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 not be with us in June but hopes to be back in July. 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

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

Apologies for not including the Much Birch 100 Club Draw for April in last month's newsletter, here are the lucky winners from April and March

The April draw took place on 14th April 2013 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am. The winners were:

1. No 5 - Mrs. S McLeod, King's Cuple
2. No 26 - Mr. K. Davies, Much Birch

The next draw will take place 7th May 2013 at 7pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

The May draw took place on 7th May 2013 in Much Birch Community Hall at 7pm. The winners were:

1. No 74 - Mr T.W.Wylor-Owen, King's Thorn
2. No 54 - Mr. L.J. Jenkins Much Birch

The next draw will take place 9th June 2013 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones Chairman

### **Police Briefing Sunday 5th May 2013 South Herefordshire & Golden Valley**

I'm now back from my wanderings, having had a fantastic time; thanks to Kate for carrying on with the briefings in my absence!

Kate has now gone on her travels for the next few

weeks, but there's some good news on the manpower front - PCSO James Cooke is back with us at Peterchurch, at least until September. Welcome back Jim!

### **Crime Trends**

#### **Madley**

Between 8pm on Tuesday 14th May and 12 noon on Thursday 16th May a lock-up in a field in a remote area was broken into, but nothing appears to have been taken. Another lock was broken off a nearby chicken run, but no chickens were missing.

Incident ref 287-s-160513

#### **Much Birch**

A 40 year old male from Northampton was arrested at 6.30pm on Sunday 5th May for driving whilst disqualified. He was charged and bailed to court.

The police and other emergency services will have an Open Day at Hereford Police Station and the Fire Station on Saturday 8th June 10.30am -4pm.

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@westmerciam.pnn.police.uk](mailto:goldenvalley.lpt@westmerciam.pnn.police.uk)

**Non emergency number 101**

**Events organised by and for  
St Michaels Hospice**

### **Opportunity for Carers in the Golden Valley**

A free course for unpaid family carers is being run in the Golden Valley Community Centre, Peterchurch, thanks to external funding. It will run for seven weeks commencing on 4th June 2013. The course aims to cover all aspects of a carer's role, from how to look after yourself and how to talk to professionals to practical advice on moving and handling. Each weekly session will run from 2.00pm – 4.30pm. If you are interested but unable

to leave the person you care for, please get in touch and we will try to help.

All enquiries to Nickatie DiMarco or Jean Fisher at St Michael's Hospice, telephone 01432 851000 or [info@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](mailto:info@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk).

Have a **Wheelie Great Day** Cycling for the Hospice

Cyclists of all standards are invited to support the Hospice by joining its first 'Wheelie Big Cycle' event, taking place on Sunday 21st July. Three different routes are on offer, taking in different aspects of the Herefordshire countryside. Cyclists can choose between 15, 33 or 60 mile circular routes dependent upon their level of ability. The two longer routes take in the county's picturesque black and white villages and the 60 mile route pops into Wales. All routes will be fully marshalled and will start and finish at the Hereford Livestock Market on Roman Road.

Pre-booked entry fees are £17 per adult, £10.50 per child or £45.00 for a family. Tandems are £30.00. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a paying adult and wear a cycle helmet.

Further information and booking forms are available from:

[http://www.st-michaels-](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/Fundraising/events/list-of-events/St+Michaels+Hospice+Wheelie+Big+Cycle)

[hospice.org.uk/Fundraising/events/list-of-](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/Fundraising/events/list-of-events/St+Michaels+Hospice+Wheelie+Big+Cycle)

[events/St+Michaels+Hospice+Wheelie+Big+Cycle](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/Fundraising/events/list-of-events/St+Michaels+Hospice+Wheelie+Big+Cycle)

or by contacting Mathew Ashcroft at the Hospice, telephone 01432 851000 or e-mail: [mashcroft@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](mailto:mashcroft@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk).

### **Bridal Service at St Michael's**

Brides-to-be may be unaware of the fantastic bridal dresses the Hospice has available at its Bromyard shop, 44 Broad Street HR7 4AA. These include a range of new donated designer dresses at only £250 each (reduced from £300-£900), as well as pre-loved wedding dresses. All proceeds come to the Hospice, so future brides can choose from a fantastic range of beautiful dresses at below High Street prices secure in the knowledge that they will be supporting the Hospice's vital work.

For further information on any of these stories, please contact Jan Bailey in the Hospice Communications Team: 01432 851000

**Midsummer Evening  
Much Birch Village Hall**

### **Saturday 22nd June at 6pm**

#### **A sausage sizzle and buffet**

Tickets £8 for adults, children 5-12 £5

Soft drinks bar (you may bring your own wine)

Please Invite your friends.

Tickets from Peter and Chris Dowsett Tel 01981 541185

or Glyn and Sheila Jenkins Tel 01981 566144

All the proceeds from this event will go towards 'Jobes Charity', a local initiative from a family living in Brampton Abbots. They have set themselves the challenge of raising £50,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital as a thanks offering for the life saving treatment and care Jobe received in Birmingham following an accident.

This event is being organised as part the June Pilgrim Line programme of Christ Church, Ross-on-Wye. The organisers are Peter and Chris Dowsett. Birch Methodist Chapel closed a little while ago and some of the small remaining congregation have joined Christ Church. We are keen to keep the contacts with your villages as well as the Church of England Wormelow hundred parishes. Pilgrim Line is a programme to stimulate local involvement and people's spiritual journey and comprises a number of events throughout June. It is linked to the 1450th anniversary of the founding of the Iona Abbey by St Columba, and the 75th anniversary of the start of the Iona Community. This event will be attended by representatives of the Iona Community

(Rev) Glyn Jenkins (project organiser)

### **Church Services in June**

#### **Little Birch Church**

Sun 2nd 11am Holy Communion

Sun 9th 11am Morning Worship

#### **Much Birch Church**

Sun 2nd 6.30pm Evensong

Sun 9th 9.15am Family Communion

Sun 16th 9.15am Morning Worship

Sun 30th Said CW Communion and 10.30am at Hereford Cathedral the Ordination of Frances Pullen

#### **Old Church Llanwarne**

Sun 23rd 11am Benefice Service

### **And Finally a Couple of Thoughts**

1. A committee keeps minutes and wastes hours.

2. Perhaps it's only coincidence, but man's best friend can't talk.