



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

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

## Diary Dates

### October

30th Gardening Club

### November

1st Priest & Publican  
Evening MBCH

2nd Village Quire Concert  
LBVH

9th Book Exchange LBVH

12th Whist Drive LBVH

17th Community Lunch MBCH

19th Womens Institute MBCH

21st Ward by-election

22nd Village Market MBCH

23rd Flicks in the Sticks  
MBCH 2.30 & 7.30 pm.

27th Gardening Club LBVH

### December

4th Gardening Club Social  
LBVH

17th WI Christmas Celebration  
MBCH

31st New Years Eve Party  
LBVH

## December Newsletter

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

## Pontrilas Ward News.

The Herefordshire Councillor for Pontrilas ward, including our three parishes, resigned recently. The resignation letter from Councillor Russell B Hamilton can be seen in full on the Community Website [www.aconburyandthebirches.org.uk](http://www.aconburyandthebirches.org.uk) Constituents can add comments if they wish to do so.

There will be a by-election on 21st November.

**In accordance with normal practice this Newsletter will not report information on candidates, election addresses, manifestos, meetings etc.**

However, candidates and others will be able to register and place information and ask questions on the Website. Alternatively, emails relating to the by-election can be sent to this Newsletter for transfer to the site.

## The Birches

### New Years Eve Party

Little Birch Village Hall  
7.30 pm. -Late  
Licenced Bar  
Light refreshments



Dancing to

## DJ Wolfie

Tickets £7 each  
(£10 after 21st December)

From: Di 540401  
Sue 540682  
Robyn 540264  
Jackie 541027



## Much Birch WI

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

On November 19th we hold our Annual Meeting which will be followed by a talk from Kitty Parkin who will tell us about her 'Fairy without Wings'.

December 17th is the member's Christmas Celebrations evening.

Visitors and potential new members are always

welcome.

As usual the annual quiz was an outstanding success with an excellent balance of questions, good organisation and superb food.

The closely fought contest was won this year by a team representing the Gardening Club consisting of Janet Gwinette, Pauline and Terry Rogers and Derek Scrivens.

Congratulations to them and thanks to the Womens Institute.

A **Concert** is to take place on  
**Saturday, 2nd. November**  
(in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association)

Featuring  
**THE VILLAGE QUIRE,**  
**Compost Heap, and Friends**



The evening will begin at 7.30p.m. And will take place in the  
**Village Hall of Little Birch.** Those attending will be pleased to note that  
a **Licensed Bar** will be available for their refreshment, and that  
a **Hot Supper** will be provided during the Interval.  
**Tickets** will be charged at £10, with a concession to £7 for those who  
have not yet reached the age of fourteen.  
These may be acquired by  
telephoning **Mr. Robert Gould** on **01981 540322**



### LocalNews

This month's news begins with a real heart warming story in which Mrs. **Margaret Smithitt** of King's Thorn made a life-changing donation of a kidney to her husband, **Robin**, who has been on dialysis 3 times per week for the last 2 years.

The 'swap operation' took place at QEH, Birmingham, in August and both Margaret and Robin are progressing so well that they are now able to walk to the surgery and back. Congratulations to them both.

Congratulations also to Mrs. **Edna Thomas** on her recent notable birthday celebrated with the family. The Wrigglebrook Valley must be a healthy place to live as there are now at least 5 nonagerians living within 100 yards of the banks of the stream. Makes you think??

The sun certainly shone for **Katie Jane Turner** on the occasion of her marriage to **Matthew Powell** at Little Birch Church on Sat. 5th Oct. The bride with her proud father, **Steve Turner**, arrived in a carriage drawn by 2 grey horses and was attended by 10 bridesmaids.

In a first for Little Birch, there was a full military guard of honour with crossed swords as the bride and groom exited the Church. We wish Katie and Matt a lifelong, happy marriage. Photographs of the wedding can be seen on Facebook.

Congratulations are extended to **Lucy** and **David Cook** on the arrival of their new son, **Reuben**. Both parents are somewhat fatigued by rather disturbed nights but Reuben is doing well and his sister, Elizabeth, is delighted with her new brother.

Congratulations are also tendered to **Rob Caton** and his partner, **Rachel**, on the birth of a baby boy,

**Dexter**. Rob now lives in Hereford but his sister, **Rachel** and her partner, **Kyle**, with **Harry** and **Lottie** have moved into Rangers Lodge in Little Birch Road, King's Thorn and we hope the family will be very happy in their new home.

We also welcome **Catherine Taylor** and **Wayne White** who have moved into Olivet Lewis's erstwhile home and we trust they will be happy there and in this community.

We are pleased to welcome to Much Birch **Paul** and **Sophie Morgan** and their family **Owen** aged 3 and **Dylan** 2. They moved into Cotstone, Hollybush Lane about a month ago having bought the house in April. Paul has his own Computer Software Company and goes to Bristol every day to British Aerospace. Sophie works 3 days a week as a Child Protection Officer.

On the 17th October **Mark** and **Sharon Curtis** moved into Tynewydd, Hollybush Lane having spent many months renovating the house. A warm welcome to them. Mark has had his own Computer Software Company for 25 years and works from home. Sharon is an Artist specialising in Paper Sculptures and exhibits all over Herefordshire. They come from Wellington to be South of the River and nearer their son, Ian, and daughter Sophie.

Greetings also to Mrs **Rogers** who came from Woolhope a month ago to live at No. 14 Tump Lane. We wish all of our new residents a long and happy future in Much Birch.

**Iris** and **Selby Lloyd** celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with family and friends at Little Birch Village Hall on 19th. October and we send our congratulations and hopes that they will enjoy many more years of happiness together. Both Iris and Selby are very hard working members in all activities in the community.

**Val Ballantyne** would like to thank all friends and neighbours in the community for their kindness and support both before and after the funeral of husband John.

**Jane Townsend** has written to the Newsletter with a donation, to say

"A big thank you" to everyone who helped on the Sunday afternoon when my horse, Tally, and I parted company. Tally is fine after a gallop through the village and is none the worse for her mad dash for home. After X-rays, I'm fine but very sore and bruised and a bit embarrassed that this was caused by a holly branch sticking out as I rode along the green lane on the south side of Aconbury

Wood".

Thanks to all from Jane Townsend and Tally. Congratulations are also sent to Keith Williams of King's Cople, who is well known throughout the area, in winning the Ferguson vintage ploughing class at the National Ploughing Championships held at Llanwarne on Oct. 12/13th. Keith has ploughed all over the UK and Scandinavia and this trophy will join the many others in the cabinet.

### **Police Briefing from Kevin Powell Community CSO**

As you are all aware, I have now taken over the Rural South Local Policing Area. It is now part of the Southside and Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team and we are based at South Wye Police Station. I know the area very well due to working from Peterchurch for 5 years with Fiona. Please contact me with any Local Policing issues and any events/meetings you would like me to attend where possible.

#### **Didley**

Around 17:30 on the 30th of September 2 males were seen acting suspiciously around a forklift truck in Didley. The two males were disturbed and ran off in the direction of Kilpeck. It is believed the offenders were attempting to gain access to the batteries and in doing so they caused damage to the panels on the machine.

#### **Pencoyd**

Between 18:00 on the 3rd of October and 07:30 on the 4th 2 sheds near a property in Pencoyd were broken into and tools were stolen. 2 dewalt drills, 1 dewalt hammer drill and a makita heavy duty drill were stolen with boxes. If anyone attempts to sell you items such as these please contact Police right away via 101.

#### **Bolstone**

Sometime between 20:00 on the 2nd and 07:30 on the 4th a water pump and a self standing industrial power washer were taken from outside a farm in Bolstone.

#### **Green Crize**

Between Tuesday the 1st and Saturday the 5th a box trailer has been forced open at the rear of a premises in Green Crize. A strimmer and a saw were taken.

Around the same time a farm building at the same location was also entered via a workshop door and a Husqvarna chainsaw was stolen.

#### **Grafton**

Between 17:00 on Monday and 07:30 on Tuesday

a outbuilding was broken into on Grafton Lane, Hereford. A chainsaw and a battery charger were stolen. The building was secured by a padlock which was also stolen.

#### **Positive Policing:**

On September 26th Operation Wingspan took place throughout Herefordshire. This was part of the YOU SAID, WE DID campaign. This was an operation to target organised criminals such drug users/dealers and to act upon any intelligence that we have received regarding drugs/weapons and other crime. 32 warrants were executed and 20 arrests were made. It was an excellent operation based on information from members of the public.

Overnight on the 13th of October approx 600 litres of heating oil was stolen from a tank in Scudamore Close. It would appear the offenders may have accessed the tank from a country lane at the rear of the premises and siphoned the oil.

Overnight on the 13th diesel was siphoned from a tractor at a premises in Didley. Offenders got away with approx 600 litres of diesel.

We are getting calls regarding items been thrown or placed onto the railway lines on the Local Policing area. I am sure I do not need to explain the dangers of this. If you see any persons acting suspiciously around railway lines please report this to Police asap via 101. If you see anyone on the line or throwing or placing items onto the line please call 999 immediately!

Throughout Herefordshire we are receiving numerous calls regarding large amounts of mud being left on roads. This can become very dangerous for motorists and appropriate measures need to be taken to prevent accidents. Farmers please ensure you do everything possible to ensure you are doing all you can to ensure you leave roads in a safe condition for other road users.

Calls have also been made to Police regarding possible scams. Firstly an elderly resident in the St Weonards area was contacted by phone and the caller stated they were entitled to a cheque for a large sum of money. The caller went on to question whether the resident would be at home for the rest of the day so that they could deliver this cheque. Needless to say no person or cheque arrived. Similarly a resident in Ballingham also had a similar call regarding installing a new electric meter. Again the caller asked as to whether the occupant would be in that day. Checks made with the occupant's electricity provider revealed no

meter was due to be fitted. Please be aware of these scams and do not give out any personal information over the phone and always check with companies as to whether the calls are genuine.

Kind Regards

Kevin

PCSO 6993 Kevin Powell

Southside and Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team

South Wye Police Station

Tel 101 Twitter: @southsidecops

### Another Scam

A warning to businesses in the area. Today I received a phone call from " Hertfordshire Crime Prevention team" ( yes Hertfordshire – they couldn't even get the right area). The caller said that I had agreed in January to advertise in their crime prevention booklet that was to be distributed to schools and businesses. He tried to pass me on to their financial team who would take credit card details from me for the advert.

Fortunately, I do not advertise and realised that this was a scam. In a bigger organisation it might be easy to assume that someone else has agreed to such advertising and go ahead with payment.

The caller had a Merseyside accent and of course a 1471 revealed that the caller's number was withheld. I have reported this to the police, and although sympathetic they say there is nothing that can be done about such calls **AnitaWilliams**, Anitabooks. Kingsthor.

### 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 3rd October 2013, at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Parish Council welcomed a new member, Mr Keith James, and said farewell to Ward Councillor Russell B Hamilton, who had resigned from his post on 1st October. A big thank you goes out to Russell for all of his hard work, on behalf of the residents of the Parish, from the Parish Council. We extend a warm welcome to Keith James as he joins Much Birch Parish Council to take up his role as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council were advised that the parking restrictions would be installed, outside the Much

Birch School, during the half term week so as to minimise disruption while line painting was in progress. Balfour Beatty has now taken control of the Highways contract and we are awaiting details of how they will be working with the parishes to deliver their objectives.

A reminder that:-

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors 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

**Cllr Keith James** The Slinget, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HP, e mail keithjamesphotos@btinternet.com Tel 01981 540171

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 on Thursday 7th November 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.

### Much Birch Village Market

MBVM takes place on the 4th Friday of the month (except December, when it is the 3rd Friday), in Much Birch Community Hall, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm The November market takes place on 22nd. Stalls will include;

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**, and **Mr.G's** chutney and preserves. Hopefully, **Sarah** will bring fruit juices and fruit.

There is a **Fair Trade** stand and craft stands. **Dan** will be back to sharpen your knives and tools.

Refreshments and 'take home cakes', the proceeds of which go to **MacMillan Cancer Support**, are supplied by Chris and Peter.

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

Please note: the December market is on the 3rd Friday, the 20th

### **Herefordshire Advanced Motorists**

Four courses per year are held at Much Birch Community Hall.

Each course consists of 3 evening presentation sessions as well as drives, at times to suit you, in your own car, with one of our trained Observers.

The first 2014 course begins at Much Birch on Tuesday, March 18th. Further details will appear at a later date. Booking is essential.

We also offer Public Assessment Drives, at a cost of £10, which can be deducted from the cost of the Skills for Life course, should you decide you would like to take it further.

If you would like to find out more, or to book a place, please contact Mary Bevan, 01874 712267 or email: marybevan@dsl.pipex.com

### **Broadband**

Residents in the Kingsthorpe and Little Birch area have suffered very poor broadband speeds. Airband Community Internet, a Worcester based company, operate land based radio wave technology units and currently provide broadband as far as Lock's Garage.

To get this service in the local area, Airband would like users to register an interest (without obligation) at [www.airband.co](http://www.airband.co) and put in your postcode. If some 50 users register an interest, they would arrange a community meeting to explain further information on the service they can provide.

As I understand it, the cost is about £17 per month for 17MB's and £22 per month for 22MB's. There would be a one off cost of £140 to erect a small transmitter/receiver on your property and to install

the cabling down to the computer.

Dave Davies, who has been in touch with Airband can be contacted on 01981 540592.

There are, of course other companies which supply an airwave service via a satellite dish.

### **Alcohol Awareness Week Invitation**

**18-24 November**

Last year during Alcohol Awareness week, we opened our AA meetings to all professionals working in this field and they proved a huge success and the same meetings have been arranged again this year in Hereford and Ross-on-Wye. (For professionals only, please contact [mimiAAPI@gmail.com](mailto:mimiAAPI@gmail.com) or if you know of anyone who needs help, ring the National Helpline number(available 24 hours) 0845 7697555. or go to [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

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

On Wed. Nov. 27th, **Gail Plant** will give a hands on talk entitled '**The Scented Garden Year**' with many specimens to handle and enjoy. The **Annual Social** will take place on Wed. December 4th, an evening of fun and feasting.

On January 29th, Roger Umpleby, an eminent entomologist, will talk on

#### **'Friends and foes in the Garden'**

Roger is a passionate plant and nature lover and will give an expert's view on pest control in the garden. Meetings take place at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall and Visitors are always welcome. John Bryant 01981 540316.

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

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on Saturday 9 November 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 the welcoming atmosphere and refreshments are much appreciated.

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 14 September.

### Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 12 November at Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30.p.m. The entrance fee is £2.00.

We are always on the 'look out' for new members including those who are new to Whist and others who may not have played for some time. A warm welcome, good company and enjoyment of an evening of Whist may be just what you need! Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available.

### Lost Property

A coat found in LBVH after the horticultural show. Call Dave Williams on 541126

A child's anorak left in LBVH after the Golden wedding party. Call Sue on 541682

### Golden Wedding

Iris and Selby Lloyd would like to thank all their friends and relatives who helped them to celebrate 50 years of marriage at the party in the village hall on 19th. October. They are touched by all the presents received and for the donations already sent to the Motor Neurone Association.

### And Finally

#### A True(?) story from Derek Scrivens

Shopping in Morrisons on a Wednesday

When I was ready to check out and pay for my groceries in Morrisons this morning, in the typical aggressive Morrisons check out manner the cashier said "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note so I could complain to my local police about this running amok security rubbish, I did just as she had instructed.

After the shrieking and hysterical remarks finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to how I should position my debit card.

Nonetheless, I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

### Church Services in November

	Little Birch	Much Birch
3rd	11am Holy Communion	6.30pm All Souls Service
10th	10.55 Remembrance & Morning Worship	9.15am Remembrance & Communion
17th		10.30am Benefice Service
24th	11am Morning Worship	9.15am Matins