

King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch & Much Birch – July & August 2007

Hall Tidy-up

LBVH Management Committee would like to thank all those who so kindly gave up their time on Saturday 2nd June, to help with the much needed hall tidy up. There is still quite a lot of work left to do, so the Management Committee are organising another working party on **SATURDAY 23RD JUNE** from 10.00am onwards. We would be very grateful to anyone who may be able to spare a few hours for this much needed work.

Gardening Club

The June meeting of the Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club will be an evening visit to Penprgwm Lodge nr. Abergavenny on **WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE**. The cost of the trip is £5.00 to include refreshments.

Members are asked to meet at Kings Thorn bus shelter at 6.15pm.

L.B.P.C.

During the next Little Birch Parish Council Meeting to be held on **WEDNESDAY 4TH JULY** at Little Birch Village Hall, a guest speaker will be visiting. It is David Lovelace who is a history and ecology of woodlands expert and he is at present involved with the Landscape Origins of the Wye Valley project. Part of his brief is to promote the restoration of ancient woodlands. The Parish Council meeting will start at 7:45pm and Mr Lovelace will be speaking for the first half an hour. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

LITTLE BIRCH CHURCH FÊTE

SATURDAY, 7TH JULY, 2PM

At

**THE OLD RECTORY
LITTLE BIRCH**

**Grand draw - 1st prize
Helicopter Ride for Four**

Teas

DIARY DATES JULY/AUGUST 2007

23RD JUNE – Village Hall Tidy-up
27TH JUNE – Gardening Club
4TH JULY – L.B. Parish Council Meeting & Talk
7TH JULY – Little Birch Church Fête
10TH JULY – Whist Drive
15TH JULY – Treasure Hunt and Children's Quiz
17TH JULY – W.I.
25TH JULY – Gardening Club
26TH JULY – Bingo

ADVANCE NOTICES

2ND AUGUST – Local History Walk
14TH AUGUST – Whist Drive
21ST AUGUST – W.I.
1ST SEPTEMBER – Kings Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club Annual Show

Games and competitions
Stalls – cakes, produce,
bric à brac, plants, books
Bouncy Castle
Car boot – £5 a table

Whist Drive

We are holding a Whist Drive at Little Birch Village Hall on **TUESDAY 10TH JULY**.

7.30pm start, entry fee £1.50 to include refreshments. Excellent prizes, new members welcome.

Little Birch Treasure Hunt & Fun quiz for children

Starting at Little Birch Village Hall on **SUNDAY 15TH JULY** at 3.00pm, ending at the Village Hall for a cream tea. Cost : £5.00 per family to include a cup of tea/coffee and a cream scone. Come and test your knowledge of the local area and enjoy a fun afternoon for all the family. Prize for the winning family.

W.I.

Members of Much Birch WI look forward to two very differing subjects at their July and August meetings.

On **TUESDAY 17TH JULY** the speaker will be Mr. John Turrell, with an evening of 'Children's Games, Songs and Rhymes in Herefordshire'.

On **TUESDAY 21ST AUGUST** Ms. Anne Lemon will be telling us about the work of St. Michael's Hospice.

W.I. meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall. For more details please contact Mrs. Barbara Wilson (President) 01432 840559 or Kath Watts 01981 540382. **New members and visitors are always welcome.**

Gardening Club

The July meeting will again be an evening visit, this time to Highnam Court near Gloucester on **WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY**. Members should meet at the bus stop at Kings Thorn at 6.15pm. The cost for this visit is £5.00 to include refreshments.

There will be no meeting in August.

Bingo

The next session of Bingo is at Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY 26TH JULY**, eyes down at 8.00pm.

There will be no Bingo in August.

Little Birch History Walk

The walk arranged for 21st June with Adrian Harvey from New Mills Farm to Little Birch Village Hall unfortunately had to be postponed. Please note – this walk was not in Aconbury Woods as entitled in the last newsletter!

This walk will now, hopefully, take place on **THURSDAY 2ND AUGUST**. The

arrangements will be the same as described in June's newsletter i.e. Meet at 6.00pm at the Village Hall with or without a car. Lifts will be organised down to New Mills.

The walk is about 3 miles, a little rough and a bit hilly, could be muddy if wet. We will leave New Mills Farm about 6.30 and reach the village hall about 9.00pm. People will be transported down to New Mills to collect cars if necessary. A ploughman's supper and drinks will be served at the village hall (£6 each).

Whist Drive

The next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST** IN Little Birch Village Hall. 7.30pm start, entry fee £1.50 to include refreshments. Excellent prizes new players welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Annual Horticultural Show is being held on **SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER**. A list of classes is attached to the newsletter and includes competitions for flowers, fruit, vegetables, domestic entries, photography as well as a large children's section. The show is free to enter and new exhibitors are encouraged to enter any of the classes. Schedules for the show complete with entry forms and rules are available at Much Birch Doctors' Surgery, Pengethley Garden Centre, The Axe and Cleaver Pub, The Castle Inn and from the Show Secretary Mrs Eryl Hughes tel 01981 541092

Children wishing to enter the tallest sunflower should contact the Show Secretary before **Friday 31st August** to have their sunflower measured.

On **Thursday 30th August** a free Children's' workshop will be held in Little Birch Village Hall between 2pm and 4pm where children aged up to 13 on the day of the Show can make vegetable monsters, gardens on a plate and prepare pictures and flower arrangements for the competition.

On **SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER** the hall will be open to receive entries between 9.00am and 11.00am and then will be re-open at 2.00pm for visitors to view the entries and winners. During the course of the afternoon refreshments will be on sale. To round off the afternoon there will be a produce auction and presentation of the cups to the winners.

Anyone wishing for further show information can contact The Show Secretary, Mrs Eryl Hughes, on 01981 541092 or the Chairman, John Bryant, on 01981 540316

Dog Show

SATURDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER – further information available from Robyn Hodges on 540264 and Jackie on 541027.

Family Halloween Party –

SATURDAY, 6TH OCTOBER.

Chilli & Chat –

SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER.

Local News

The community of Little Birch was shocked to hear of the sudden death of MRS. PAT DAVIDGE at her home on the Pendant Pitch on 25th May. Her funeral service was held at the Church of St. Devereux which was full to overflowing with family and friends. We extend to husband, Tony, and son and daughter, Paul and Karen, and their families and to her mother, Beryl, and sisters and brother, Sheila, Graham, Caroline and Jackie, our deepest sympathies for their very sad loss. Donations in memory of Pat were shared between Diabetes UK and St. Devereux Church,

Advanced 'Congratulations' are sent to MR. FRANK COOKE who will celebrate his 90th birthday on 7th July. Frank has lived in Little Birch for virtually the whole of his life and has contributed his memories of life in the parish to the recently published 'Little Birch on Aconbury Hill', copies of which are still available.

IRIS and SELBY LLOYD are proud to announce that their eldest daughter, VANESSA (now Barron) has been awarded an Honours Degree (2:1) in Science and Nursing by the University of Waterford. Vanessa has lived in Ireland for many years and we add our congratulations on this notable achievement at the age of ?? (not good etiquette to give away a lady's age).

Some good news from Leon & Sandra Slater at Wood Corner, Kingsthorpe, they are celebrating the birth of granddaughter India Mae Slater who was born on the 4th May at Queen Mary's hospital in Sidcup, Kent. A beautiful daughter for Lee and Vanessa.

Lost

A pair of spectacles was found in Tump Lane, Much Birch a few weeks ago. Please contact Miss Rosemary Rigby on 01981 540477.

Errata

Apologies to Geraint Richards and Graham Taylor who led us round Aconbury Wood on 8th May, for one or two errors in the report published in last month's newsletter. Corrections are:

- Sweet Chestnut had been planted in alternate rows with Norway Spruce.
- Charcoal burning may result in charcoal being sold locally.

- Planted oaks had been grown in local nurseries from acorns collected from the best trees on the estate.

- The lower tree density in the camp is by agreement with English Heritage.

L.B.P.C.

Below is the Report of the Annual and Council Meeting of Little Birch Parish Council held on **Wednesday 16th May** at Little Birch Village Hall.

No interests were declared.

John Dillon was duly re-elected as chairman.

The Minutes of the AM held on 3rd May 2006 and the meeting held on the 8th March 2007 were read and signed as a true record.

Chairman's Annual Report

John Dillon gave a summary of the Council's activities for the past year, including a report on the village hall and historical planning applications. The Chairman thanked Mr John Startin for his unwavering dedication as Parish Councillor and wished him happiness for the future. The Chairman also welcomed Mrs Sue Jones to the Parish Council.

Financial Report

The Council's books were available for inspection; a balance of £1,667.51 is to be carried forward to the 1st April 2007. This is split as £632.26 to be carried forward for the Lengthsman scheme for the 2007/2008 financial year and £1035.25 available to the Parish Council. The Parish Council approved accounts and finances.

6 cheques written, 2 payments received.

Matters Arising

Village Hall - the Village Hall has had a very good year and the minutes of the Annual Meeting are to be published in the newsletter. Little Birch Parish Council nominated Mike Morley and Alison Clarke to continue to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme – Lengthsman to inspect local culverts and ditches urgently and to report back on his findings.

Parish Field – Clerk to chase Central Networks and Herefordshire Council concerning the overhanging hedges and trees.

Parish Footpaths – A newsletter article to be written requesting parishioners to be vigilant when lighting outdoor fires during sustained dry periods. Clerk to contact Herefordshire Council again concerning the overgrown hedges along the U71603 road from Little Birch church to New Mills.

Mobile Library – A reply has been received from Herefordshire Council

outlining the reasons for the new route stopping at the Village Hall only. Alternative arrangements have been offered to local users to compensate. A letter to be sent to original reporting parishioner.

Correspondence

A detailed list of all correspondence was given to the Parish Council and noted.

Planning

Planning Applications

Buildings at New Mills Farm -

Conversion of redundant buildings into two dwellings – Returned no objection.

One comment to ensure no drainage contamination to nearby stream.

Planning Permission –

Greenlea Cottage – Conservatory extension to dwelling.

The View – Replacement Dwelling

Any Other Business

Community Support Officer Fiona Witcher informed the Parish Council that there were no crimes reported since the last meeting.

A document is currently being written concerning the newsletter and the meeting which took place on 4th April 2007 and will be issued to the Parish Council.

Correspondence to be written to Councillor Godfrey Davies to thank him for his support.

The History Society has organised a walk from New Mills to Little Birch Village Hall on 21st June 2007.

A request was made for the Clerk to write a letter to Herefordshire Council concerning the current H7 policy of the current UDP.

A request was made for the clerk to issue future Parish Council meeting dates.

Requests have been received from several residents concerning the Parish Freighter. Clerk to organise.

Date of Next Meeting - WEDNESDAY 4TH JULY.

Parish Clerk

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish. Contact details are: Liz Callwood, 540081 or lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk

Little Birch Precept

Little Birch Parish Council wish to inform residents that the increase in the 2007/2008 precept was requested to cover potential election costs, as guided by Herefordshire Council. As there was no election, the 2008/2009 precept request will be decreased accordingly.

Fire Safety in Little Birch

After sustained dry periods, Little Birch Parish Council wishes to advise locals to

be very vigilant if lighting fires outdoors. It has been reported that embers from one fire dispersed and caused damage to a Little Birch Lane and its hedge.

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The June draw took place on Wednesday, 13th June 2007 at Much Birch Community Hall at 7.00pm

The winners were:

1. No. 49 - Miss Joy Aingel, Hereford
2. No. 101 - Mrs. Shirley Coates, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on Thursday, 5th July 2007 at 7.45pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones, *Chairman/Promoter*

Mobile Library Timetable

Little Birch on Mondays as follows:

23rd July, 13th August, 10th September, 1st October, 22nd October, 12th November & 3rd December.

Much Birch on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays as follows:

Monday 23rd July, Tuesday 31st July & Saturday 11th August
Monday 13th August, Tuesday 21st August & Saturday 8th September
Monday 10th September, Tuesday 18th September & Saturday 29th September
Monday 1st October, Tuesday 9th October & Saturday 20th October
Monday 22nd October, Tuesday 30th October & Saturday 10th November
Monday 12th November, Tuesday 20th November & Saturday 1st December
Monday 3rd December, Tuesday 11th December & Saturday 22nd December

Neighbourhood Watch

Stolen Vehicles

Overnight 10th/11th May from the area of the Old Park Hall, Wormelow. A blue coloured Mitsubishi 4x4 pickup was stolen. The vehicle had been left overnight by the owner as it had a puncture.

Burglaries

On 3rd May a shed at St Owens Cross was broken into and tools taken.

Overnight 8th/9th May at Allensmore, Hereford, a dwelling was entered and cash and credit cards were stolen.

Damage

Overnight 17th/18th May damage caused to wooden bench in grounds of St Weonards School.

Between 4th & 8th May damage was caused to windows at Much Birch School.

Between 6th & 9th May damage was caused to a fence at a property near to the school.

Thefts

On the evening of 20th May at Tump Lane, Much Birch, washing was stolen from a washing line.

Overnight 11th/12th May chickens were stolen from a house at Belmont. They were recovered

nearby in woods in a home made pen. Believed local youths involved.

Burglary Dwellings

There have been no burglary dwellings this month, which is always good news.

Burglary Buildings

A well secured garage has been broken into and a moto cross bike stolen, in Clehonger overnight of the 23rd/24th of May. If anything suspicious was seen, please contact one of your Peterchurch officers.

Vehicle Crime

Two cars were entered at the Black Mountains "Black Hills site" and purses, cash and a mobile phone were stolen. No damage was sustained to the cars themselves. Please be cautious and remove anything of value from your unattended vehicle.

Theft

A chainsaw was stolen from a farm outbuilding in Dulas, on the night of the 9th of May.

Farm machine parts were stolen from a farm in Lower Maescoed between the beginning of the year and the 14th May.

Sheep shearing equipment was stolen from a farm in Clifford on the 26th May.

PLEASE

Let us know what is going on and when it is going on

We get a lot of calls that relate to incidents that have taken place a day or more in the past. In particular, where there are cases of anti social behaviour, we need to know about it when it is taking place.

The main control room at HQ is open 365 days a year, 24 hrs a day, so even if you cannot get hold of us on our mobile phones, please ring the control room number which is 08457 444888.

If it's not reported or recorded, we may not be aware of the issues affecting you. We target our resources to address areas where issues arise.

Whilst mobile phones are a useful tool for us, if you have a lot of information, the main control room can be better equipped to take the information and pass it on to us.

As we are all operational, there may be occasions when we cannot answer phones whilst on duty, eg. when driving, so please be patient.

The Countryside Code

Please be aware that when using land that is not your own, you have a responsibility to follow the Countryside Code.

This includes such things as:

- ✓ Not lighting fires or barbecues.
- ✓ Leaving gates as you find them.
- ✓ Keeping to the footpath.
- ✓ Not driving or riding unauthorised motor vehicles on such land.

A lot of the rural incidents that we deal with could be avoided if people were to follow this code and above all, use their common sense.

Within the last month a man was walking his dog on a footpath in a field which contained a herd of cows with calves. The man was seriously injured when the cows attacked him and his dog.

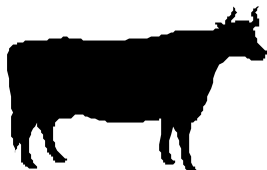
For those of you who want to walk your dogs in the countryside, there is an excellent

government website
www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk where you can find details of how to safely use the countryside with your dog.

If you do not have Internet access, to sum up:

- ✓ Keep your dog under close control at all times.
- ✓ If your dog is not the most obedient in the world it is probably best to keep it on a lead at all times.
- ✓ At certain times of the year, it should be kept on a lead anyway.
- ✓ If you are unfortunate to be attacked by animals whilst holding the lead, let go of the lead and dog.

And finally remember that if your dog attacks animals the farmer has the right to shoot the dog.



A new member of the Local Policing Team

This month we welcome CSO Kevin Powell to Peterchurch Police Station to work alongside PC Andrew Bundy and CSO Fiona Witcher on the South Hereford Rural Area.

Kevin has just completed seven weeks training at Hindlip, our HQ, and will be shadowing PC Bundy and CSO Witcher for the next five weeks.

From the beginning of July, once he passes his assessment, Kevin will be working independently. Kevin and Fiona will work their shift pattern so that one or other of them should be on duty most days, including weekends.

They will be using the same mobile phone number so please feel free to contact them on **07779 141232**.

Crimestoppers

People are often put off the idea of giving information because they do not want to give their name. Crimestoppers is an excellent facility that allows you to give information in the strictest of confidence, yet still stop crime. The number is put at the bottom of all our newsletters. We would always encourage people to give information that helps us in our work. You may also receive a reward for information that leads to an arrest or conviction.

Fixed penalty notices issued

Seat belt offences - 1
Speeding offences - 3
Mobile phone offences - 4

And finally

on a lighter note.....

A police officer had just bought his meal when he and colleagues were called to a pub fight. At the scene he arrested a man who was handcuffed and put in the police car. The police officer stayed with the prisoner and monitored the situation that was now calming down. When he checked his prisoner, he was shocked to find what appeared to be blood smeared around his face. Upon closer inspection, he found that the blood was in fact pepperoni and tomatop topping, courtesy of the officer's pizza.

CENTRAL POLICE CONTROL

08457 444 888

Non-Emergency phone

08457 444 888

Emergency phone 999

Response Officers

PC Fiona Farrington

Mob: 07817 019 374

PC Roger Bradley

Mob: 07811 129860

Local Police Officers

PC Andrew Bundy

Mob: 07855 385 844.

CSO Fiona Witcher &

CSO Kevin Powell

Mob: **07779 141232**

Hereford Rural South Answer phone

01432 346756

Local Reps are :

East

JOHN BULBECK - 540178

Central

BOB PETERS - 540670

West

BETTY PHILPOTT - 540614

Strayed?

For several months now we have had a very friendly tabby/white male cat visiting us daily. He now seems to have adopted us. Does he belong to anyone, please, probably in the Wrigglebrook area? Please contact us if you can help.

Des & Rose Wathen
01981 - 540557.

Please note
updated
advertisements

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **SEPTEMBER** issue via post to Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD; or left in the post box at 'Bramleys' or by email attachment in Word format to:

sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk by

* * * * *
18TH AUGUST

MEADOW AND FIELD TOPPING.

*Don't let those docks, thistles and nettles spread.
Get them mowed off now.*

For a fast, reliable, local service call:-

**Steve Turner on
01981 540090 or**