

NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN



& THE BIRCHES



A Newsletter for the Villages of Kings Thorn and Little Birch - December 2006

A very Happy Christmas to all our readers

DIARY DATES – DECEMBER 2006

- 2ND DECEMBER – Christmas Fayre
- 6TH DECEMBER – Gardening Club Christmas Social
- 9TH DECEMBER – History Group Book Launch
- 9TH DECEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks
- 12TH DECEMBER – Evergreen Club Christmas Party
- 16TH DECEMBER – Children's Christmas Party
- 20TH DECEMBER – Carol Singing
- 24TH DECEMBER – Little Birch Carol Service
- 31ST DECEMBER – New Year's Eve Party – Music & Dance
(evening wear) - Tickets only

ADVANCE NOTICES

- 26TH JANUARY – Village Pantomime – “Treasure Island”
- 27TH JANUARY – Village Pantomime – “Treasure Island”

Christmas Fayre

Don't forget to come along to The Christmas Fayre, from 10.00am. – 1.00pm on **SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER**. There will be food stalls (Peter and Chris Dowsett will be there after their successful event at the hall for the Macmillan Nurses), paintings, patchwork, cards, gifts and lots more, so it will be worth coming and having a browse. The Much Birch Recipe Book will also be on sale – that is if we haven't sold out – and all proceeds from this and the Fayre will go to the Hall Development Fund. You will also have an opportunity to sign up for the 100 Club Draw 2007 – the closing date to accept entries is the end of December. Tea and coffee will be served during the morning so do come along, have a look around and a chat with your neighbours and friends.

Gardening Club

The Gardening Club will be holding their annual Christmas social at 7.30pm. on **WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER** at Little Birch Village Hall. Tickets are priced at £3.50 per person and are available at the Club meeting on 29TH NOVEMBER. or from Committee members. You are asked to bring your own plate, pudding dish, cutlery and liquid refreshment. Wine glasses will be provided. Further details from Helen Fox, tel. 01981 541004.

The History Group

Little Birch and Kings Thorn History Group are launching their book – ***Little Birch on Aconbury Hill*** – at 12 noon on **SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER**. There will be an opportunity to purchase copies, meet the authors and get your copies signed from 12 Noon – 4.00pm. All welcome. For more details please see flyer attached to this newsletter

Flicks In The Sticks

in association with Arts Alive

“*Pirates Of The Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest*” at Much Birch Hall, on **SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER** at 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm). This is the sequel to “*The Curse of The Black Pearl*” and stars Johnny Depp, Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom - Jack Sparrow endeavors to settle a blood debt to Davey Jones, the infamous captain of the ghostly ship, the Flying Dutchman. Faced with a potential afterlife of servitude and damnation, Jack also has the upcoming wedding of Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann to consider .. Tickets are £3.50 and are available in advance or on the door. For further information or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly on 01981 541274.

Evergreen Club

The Club will be holding its Christmas Lunch on **TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER** at the Red Lion and we have a "full house". Questionnaires have been replied to and we have a super list of venues for outings in 2007. Also in 2007 the Annual General Meeting will be held on **MONDAY 12TH MARCH** and will be held at Much Birch Community Hall. As always an Agenda will be sent to you nearer the time together with a list of outings selected from the highest scorers.

The Committee wish to thank members for their support throughout the 2006 season and we look forward to seeing you at the Red Lion.

Bridget Banks (Chairman), Evelyn Vaughan-Williams (Treasurer), Beverley Webb (Secretary) and Michael Wardle (Co-opted)

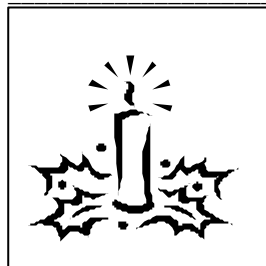
Children’s Christmas Party

The party is from 3.00pm. 5.00pm. on **SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER** in Little Birch Village Hall. The cost is £3.00 per child to include tea and a visit to Santa. There will be crafts to make and games to play. Come and join in the fun. Refreshments

for Mum and Dad will be available. *Proceeds are in aid of hall refurbishment fund*

Carol Singing

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER meeting at Little Birch Village Hall 7.00pm. Anyone interested in taking part, please be at the village hall by 7.00pm. *Proceeds in aid of Church and hall refurbishment funds.*



Little Birch Carol Service

Little Birch PCC would like to thank everyone who attended the Harvest Supper in October and extend a warm welcome to everyone to the Carol and Christingle Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve **SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER** at St. Marys, Little Birch.

New Years Eve Party

This is at Little Birch Village Hall on **SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER** from 8.00pm till late - Disco by Rick Hampton, Licensed bar, raffle, buffet supper, Evening wear optional. Tickets £7.00 each or a family ticket can be purchased to include 2 adults and up to 3 children (ages 14 and under) for £16.00. Tickets will be available to purchase from the end of November from Jackie Morley 541027, Robyn Hodges 540264 or Amanda Williams 541126. *Proceeds in aid of hall refurbishment fund.*

‘Treasure Island’

There will be **THREE** performances of Little Birch's Pantomime, “**Treasure Island**” at Little Birch Village Hall on **FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY** at 7.30, **SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY** at 2.30, & **SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY** at 7.30, Ticket prices: £6 for adults, £3 for children and senior citizens Ticket sales will take place from 1st January in local areas and press. Tickets can be reserved in advance on receipt of payment from Hilary Gould. Tel: 01981 540322

Lighting

Please can anyone help?

I am looking for someone with electrical / lighting expertise who would like to help with the stage lighting for Little Birch's Pantomime, "Treasure Island". If you are willing to give your time and are interested in joining our panto team please telephone Hilary Gould on 01981 540322.

Local News

Our Congratulations go to 2 families at the Old Shoppe, Kings Thorn Road, on the birth of new babies. ADELLA was born to ARWEN and ANDREW NIXON last month, a sister for Lanny and Eluned and 2 weeks ago, KIERON ARTHUR arrived to BRYONY and MICHAEL CONNOLLY and an excited sister, Rosa. All are doing very well and our best wishes are sent to both families. A warm welcome to the community is given to MR. and MRS. NAYLOR who have moved into Glendene, and to ISOBEL and TIM RILEY at Waverley Lodge and LAURA and MARK with their new baby ALANNAH at The Barn, Kings Thorn. We trust that they will be happy in their new homes and enjoy living amongst us. If anybody else is new to our villages, please let us know and even if you do not want a mention, you might like the Newsletter either delivered to your door or via email. This month we say ‘Farewell’ to JEAN and JAMES LATHAM, thanking them both for their work in many organisations in the community and we trust they will be very happy in their new home in Whitecross.

A number of friends have been in hospital recently and several are receiving ongoing radiotherapy or chemotherapy and we send our best wishes to them and their families. Please remember them all in your prayers.

KEN WILSON has just returned home after a successful cataract operation and we sincerely thank HAZEL and KEN for delivering the Newsletter in their area for many years. A warm welcome is given to ZOE MORTIFORD who has kindly volunteered to take over this delivery area.

Question?

Please could LBVH Fund Raising Committee clarify “When does a Child become a Young Adult able to attend all events with their parents?” *Ros Preece*

Speeding In Kings Thorn

Despite pleas from residents, the 30mph speed limit continues to be ignored by motorists, with the main road still being used by some as a racetrack. Concern of residents resulted in a letter, supported by some 50 signatures, being presented to both Much Birch and Much Dewchurch Parish Councils asking for further measures to be taken.

At their meeting on 2nd November it was unanimously agreed by Much Birch Council that a speed monitoring device be located in strategic positions in the village. Thank you to all the residents who signed this petition and to the Parish Council for the action taken, which we trust will put a stop to the dangerous practice.

Little Birch Road

It seems that there is much concern about the sudden appearance of eight 'slow' signs on Little Birch Road. Little thought has been taken as to the placement of these signs and it is questionable as to whether they have been officially requested. Certainly there has been no correspondence or discussion within the village. Two of the signs (within twenty yards of each other) face the wrong way, two of them are placed too far from the set of three corners by Sunnybank, and in any event anybody who lives in the village is unlikely to be driving at much more than 15-20mph, in this area and the rest are unnecessary because there is ample visibility. The one place where a sign is badly needed is at the corner adjacent to Wyndhurst facing motorists travelling westward. This has not even been contemplated. Cars come around it far too fast to stop and tuck into the gateway on the corner. Doing so would allow motorists travelling in an easterly direction to pass without encroaching on the very soft verges. It is not difficult to back-up, but backing a car seems to be a lost art. Most cars just drive onto the verges which, at this time of year, quickly become badly rutted and impossible for walkers with their dogs. Dotted white lines, long overdue, have been painted at the bottom of the lane to Crows Nest but nothing has been done to the lane to the Church or Old School Lane. Cars on Little Birch Road have right-of-way. Modern cars have excellent brakes so there is no excuse not to stop and take a careful look before joining it.

"Slow Signs"

To avoid any doubt, Little Birch Parish Council would like to confirm that they did not request or authorise the numerous slow signs that have recently appeared in one small area of the Village. We are concerned about the implications and will be taking up the matter with Highway Engineers at the earliest possible opportunity.

A plea to dog owners

On Saturday 11th November, my cat (a much loved pet) was attacked by a dog and died on Sunday morning as a result of his injuries. The attack happened in the Parish Lane area. I would like to plead with dog owners to take more responsibility when walking their dogs and keep them on leads whilst on roadways and lanes. Hopefully this will prevent anyone else suffering the heartbreak our family has.

Dog Walker for 'Charlie'

Charlie is our very friendly and affectionate chocolate Labrador. My work commitments abroad mean that I am away for 6 weeks at a time and then back at home for 3 weeks. My wife works 4 days a week in the Midlands with a day off on Wednesdays. We are looking for an enthusiastic, animal loving person in the village who would be willing to exercise 'Charlie' on a part time basis while I am abroad on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at a time of their choosing?. Walks would need to be for a minimum of one hour's duration and preferably in Aconbury Woods in order that he gets a good run. We would pay £10 per walk. If you would be interested, please would you contact us on 01981 541139 or email

macmaclean49@hotmail.com

Decorating M.B. Church

We plan to decorate and clean Much Birch Church on **SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER** at 9.45am ready for the Carol Service which is taking place on **FRIDAY, 22ND DECEMBER**, and for the Christmas period. I am looking for more people to help this year, please, to share the task. Last year it was a little bit lonely with just one or two of us there. Please put the date in your diary and do come along to help. If you have a real tree, any flowers, foliage or decorations spare they would be most welcome too. Would you please let me

know if you have any of these or indeed can come to help, so that I can make arrangements accordingly.

Sylvia Jones, *Churchwarden*

Use of the green lanes

It's that time of year again when problems arise on the green lanes as a result of use by vehicles.

Most of the green lanes in Little Birch are registered as Public Footpaths and, as such, it is actually a 'civil wrong' to ride a bicycle or a horse on these. Any problems arising could be dealt with as a civil trespass between the individual and the appropriate organisation. In practice, tolerance is exercised in the neighbourhood in these circumstances.

The use of a Public Footpath by a motorised vehicle is an offence under section 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, without lawful authority or excuse. If there are persistent problems the highway authority may require the vehicle owners to repair damage caused. In addition police can be asked to investigate and have powers to seize vehicles (under the Police Reform Act 2002) if they are causing a public nuisance.

Certain individuals, who need access to fields off these lanes or to their own property, and for whom no alternative exists, have right of use.

Strictly speaking, past use of these footpaths (before they were registered as such) by vehicles does not endorse present use. The new rights of way legislation, which came into force on 02/05/06, extinguishes all rights of way for motor vehicles on them.

Again, some tolerance is exercised by local people as long as the occasional user shows some responsibility and ensures that the footpath is not made unusable as a footpath.

With regard to Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS) the situation is rather different. There is only one BOAT in Little Birch which goes from Walls Pool junction to Crossways Cottage. (Parish Lane is also one). Motorised vehicles (with appropriate tax, insurance and licence) do, of course, have the right to drive on these. However, exercising rights is one thing and exercising responsibility towards other users is quite another. We all like to feel that we are responsible adults but this means consideration for other users. This should, of course, be a consideration for their safety and those of their animals. Exercising of responsibility also means not using BOATS in unsuitable weather conditions when excessive damage can

be done to the surface making it difficult to use by both vehicles and other users. **PLEASE** be considerate to other villagers. **DON'T** exercise your rights without showing responsibility. **BE SAFE** and don't speed unnecessarily. **AND REMEMBER**, it's quicker by road!

Thanks

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to thank Lyn and Nick from the Castle Inn, for organising the hugely entertaining general knowledge quiz and for the generous donation to hall refurbishment funds. We wish you good luck for the future.

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The November draw took place on Tuesday, 14th November.

The winners were :-

1. No. 94 Mr. Colin Dymott, King's Thorn
2. No. 58 Mr. Maldwyn Wylor-Owen, King's Thorn

The next draw will take place on Saturday, 9th December at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall at the 'Flicks in the Sticks' Film Night i.e. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (Doors open at 7pm)

Entry forms for the year 2007 are now available from members of the Committee. Thank you for your support during this last year.

John Jones –Chairman

Funds for M.B. Hall

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those people who contributed to the Cookie Trail and Much Birch Recipe Book Launch on 21st October. We are grateful to everyone who sent in contributions for the book of 220 recipes, plus all the hints and remedies, and to those who very kindly donated cookies. We are also indebted to Pam and Tom Foort, from Upton-upon-Severn, who very kindly made and donated the Much Birch Christmas cards using Pam's original painting of the Hall and to Elizabeth Dinnen, who worked tirelessly to collect recipes together, helped with the organisation of the launch and has worked so hard at the after sales of the event. There are also other people who helped in other ways with the whole project too many to mention here, but they know who they are and our thanks go to them too.

It is not possible yet to say how much we have raised for the funds as the items are still selling well. They will also be available at the Christmas Fair to be held in the Hall on 2nd December 2006 from 10am until 1pm but meanwhile items can be purchased from us by telephoning 01981 540980.

John and Sylvia Jones

Neighbourhood Watch Horse Passports

All owners of horses, ponies and donkeys, must have a passport for each animal they own. There is a one off cost and the passports are valid for the entire lifetime of the horse. Not obtaining a passport may mean restrictions for your horse, such as when using it for competition or when being sold. Horse Passports will establish the basis for the National Equine Database, which will help combat diseases and improve the quality of breeding.

Apply Now! Call Defra Helpline on 08459 335577 Or online –

www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses

Burglary Dwellings

A rural cottage near Pontrilas was broken into during the day on 13th October. All credit to a local farmer who witnessed the offender and challenged him, allowing time for the police to respond quickly to the scene. Subsequently the suspect was arrested later that day in Abergavenny and has been detained in custody.

Obviously we don't normally recommend that members of the public put themselves at risk by challenging offenders, but in this case the quick thinking of the local farmer calling the police and acting in the way he did, made it possible for the quick arrest of the offender.

Burglary Buildings

Overnight of the 26th/27th October, the NFU office at Wormbridge was entered by force and a quantity of cash stolen. Did you see anything suspicious at or near these premises, which is situated adjacent to the main A465 Hereford to Abergavenny near Wormbridge Church? Did you travel this road late that night? Did you see any persons or a vehicle parked near the premises or in the lay-by just down the road? Any information can be passed directly to officer in the case – PC Roger Bradley

Theft

Other trends this month include diesel thefts, which continue on an infrequent basis, and also a large Timber Grab was stolen from a lorry trailer near Voucher.

Hallowe'en Praise

On a positive note, it didn't go unnoticed that there was very little disorder reported within the Golden Valley area during Halloween. There were obviously some reports of minor disorder but generally most behaved themselves and there was little disruption.

Forum

Next Golden Valley Area Forum **THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm. in Peterchurch Community Centre.

Caution

As we approach the festive time of year it should go without saying that everyone must be more vigilant and more alert to the greater risk of crime that tends to take place. If you see anything suspicious then please report it either to your Neighbourhood Watch Representatives or to the Central Police Control on **08457 444 888**.

Finally on a lighter note

A speeding motorist was stopped by a police patrol car, and the offending driver only had a few moments to think of an excuse for his actions as the patrol officer approached. The officer asked the driver if he had a reason for exceeding the speed limit, and the quick thinking driver replied"Well you see, a number of years ago my wife ran off with a police traffic officer, and I thought it was him bringing her back!!!"

Local Representatives are:

East JOHN BULBECK - 540178

Central BOB PETERS - 540670

West BETTY PHILPOTT- 540614

And PC Andrew Bundy can be contacted directly by mobile telephone whilst on duty. His number is: **07855 385 844**.

LBPC Meeting

No interests were declared.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th September were read and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Village Hall – As trustees of the Village Hall, two members of the Parish Council are required to sign legal documentation concerning the donated gift of land.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme – Work has been completed at Higgins Well. Chairman to provide a local map to help the Lengthsman make a detailed plan of which ditches and culverts require clearing. Much Birch Parish Council has been contacted concerning recent storm debris which has formed on

Wrigglebrook lane. A reply has not yet been received.

Parish Field – The overhanging trees are still outstanding with both Central Networks and BT. Herefordshire Council is yet to inspect the two sycamore trees since there are no preservation orders on either tree.

Parish Footpaths – The Clerk has not received any correspondence concerning local footpaths after the newsletter article and posters were displayed.

Financial Report

1 cheque written and the 2nd precept payment received.

Correspondence

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

Planning Applications

Lynwood – Erection of new build 3 bedroom dwelling (Returned – no objections).

The View – Replacement dwelling (Returned with accompanying letter to endorse plans).

Planning Refusal

The View – Replacement dwelling

Planning Permission

Highland Cottage – Widen dwelling by 1m along its length.

Land Adjacent to Lower House Farm – Proposed barn for agricultural storage.

Any Other Business

Precept - The 2007/2008 Precept is required to be set. The Parish Council agreed not to increase the precept unless the 2007 election costs will greatly impact. Clerk to request further information concerning the 2007 Election costs.

Replacement Bin - Correspondence has been received from Much Birch Parish Council concerning part payment for a replacement bin at the bus stop in Kings Thorn. The Parish Council agreed to a third of the cost of a new bin although recommended the fireproof version and its location to be away from the shelter to avoid youths from using the bin to climb onto the bus stop roof.

Mobile Library - Correspondence to be sent to Herefordshire Council concerning the poor response to the Mobile Library consultation.

Crime - PC Andrew Bundy informed the Parish Council that there has been no reported crime recently for the area. There is to be a Community Forum on 29th November 2006 at Peterchurch where local residents can voice any concerns. Alternatively Andrew would like to be contacted direct.

Donation - An annual donation of £100 was agreed to be given to the Village Hall Management Committee in

payment for the Village Hall's use by the Parish Council.

Date of Next Meeting

WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY

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

M.B. Parish Council

Precept 2007/8

Parish Councillors will be discussing the Precept (budget requirements for the Parish Council) at their next meeting on 7TH DECEMBER 2006, at 8.00 pm in the Community Centre.

Speeding Kings Thorn & Barrack Hill

The Parish Council is liaising with Herefordshire Council and the Police on issues relating to speeding in these two areas. One possibility being explored, is the loan/purchase of a 'Speed Indicator Device' (SID). 'SID' is a movable speed recorder device which collects data on traffic which passes. Three or four locations would be chosen around the parish, and the equipment would be moved around these locations.

New Bus Shelters

In accordance with views expressed in the Parish Plan, the Parish Council has asked Herefordshire Council to consider the location of bus shelters at the entrance to the Village Hall and at the Top of Tump Lane.

Planning

Application for comment by Parish Council

DCSW2006/3573/0 - **Cyprus Cottage** – Wrigglebrook - Construction of dwelling served by sewage treatment plant.

Planning permission

Hideaway – Little Birch Road – Install oil tank on concrete hard standing.

Applications supported by P.C

DCSW2006/3462/F - **Westwinds** – Upper Wrigglebrook. Single storey extension.

DCSW2006/3370/F - **Ross Lea** – Much Birch - Proposed 2 storey extension and replacement double garage.

DCSW2006/3183/F - **Bower Cottage** – The Thorn. - Proposed modernisation, two storey extension. Detached double garage.

Applications about which P.C. expressed concerns

DCSW2006/3042/F - **Land at Lynwood Kings Thorn** - Erection of new build 3 bedroom dwelling.

PC concerns re drainage and intrusive effect on neighbouring property.

Meetings Of Parish Council

Meetings of the Parish Council are held on the first Thursday of each month, at 8.00pm in the Community Hall. The next two meetings will be held on 7th December 2006 & 1st February 2007.

Local residents are warmly invited to attend.

Parish Clerk

If you have any queries on Parish Council matters, please telephone or fax your Clerk, Mrs Lynda Wilcox on: 01432 276447, or write to 5 Croome Close, Hereford, HR1 1UY.

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **JANUARY 2007** issue via post to Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD; or left in the post box at 'Bramleys' or by email attachment to

sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk by:

* * * * *
14TH DECEMBER

* * * * *
Please note earlier date.

COPE

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