

King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

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

Flicks In The Sticks

in association with Arts Alive

This month's film will be **A GOOD WOMAN PG** at Much Birch Hall, on **SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY**.

Set in the 1930s on the beautiful shores of the Italian Riviera, **A GOOD WOMAN** stars Helen Hunt, Scarlett Johansson and Tom Wilkinson in an elegant and witty romantic comedy based on Oscar Wilde's classic play, 'Lady Windermere's Fan'.

Doors open at 7.00pm and the film commences at 7.30pm. Tickets £3.50 (£2.50 under 16s) available in advance or on the door. For further information or to book tickets, call Bryony Connolly on 01981 541274.

Pancake Night

on **TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY** at L.B. Village Hall 7.30pm start.

Come and sample a variety of pancakes with various fillings both sweet and savoury. There will be Pancake tossing competitions and Pancakes Races

All welcome - Adults £4.00 Children £2.00 refreshments will be available

Proceeds in aid of hall refurbishment fund

W.I.

On **TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY** at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Centre the subject for our next meeting is "Narrowboats".

Bingo

Bingo will be back to normal at Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY**. Eyes down at 8.00pm

Male Voice Choir

The Hereford Rail Male Voice Choir, supported by soprano soloist Clementine Lovell of the Guildhall School of Music, is coming to give a concert at Much Birch Hall on **SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY** at 7.00pm.

Tickets £6 – Available from John Jones – 01981 540980

Proceeds in aid of the Much Birch Community Hall Development Fund.

DIARY DATES FEBRUARY 2007

10TH FEBRUARY – Flicks in the Sticks

20TH FEBRUARY – Pancake Night

21ST FEBRUARY – W.I.

22ND FEBRUARY – Little Birch Bingo

24TH FEBRUARY – Hereford Rail Male Voice Choir

ADVANCE NOTICES

12TH MARCH – Evergreen Club AGM

27TH MARCH – L.B. Village Hall AGM

10TH APRIL – Evergreen Club Trip to Oxford

The Evergreen Club

The AGM will be held on **MONDAY 12TH MARCH** at Much Birch Community Hall commencing 2.30pm. Members will be receiving the Agenda and a list of Outings for 2007 giving pick-up points and details of what is available at each of the choices very shortly.

2006 was an extremely successful year although we did suffer a couple of minor hiccups on the coach front which were quickly sorted out by our excellent coach people and on some trips we did have a downpour or two!

We had an excellent Christmas Lunch at the Red Lion, Peterstow, who just managed to fit us in. Our numbers are growing and we pick up 15 members from Ross alone together with 2 new members at the coach depot at Brandon.

We are able to pick up at all villages on the A49 on the way through to Ross so if you know anyone who would like to be picked up in Peterstow or Bridstow then please ask them to telephone 01981 540406 for further information.

We start 2007 with a trip to Oxford of the dreaming spires, riverside walks, shops, college quadrangles and the University Botanic Gardens with 3,000 **species of plants (by Magdalen College)**. Walking tours may be available as are the Hop-on-Hop-off buses. The date is **10TH APRIL** and the fare £8 for Members (£10 for non-members). Please telephone your booking through to either 01981 540406 or 540932 by the 1st April.

In the meantime we look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

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

L.B.V.H. AGM

Little Birch Village Hall AGM is on **TUESDAY 27TH MARCH** at 7.30 more information in next newsletter.

Local News

We send our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to MRS NELL WORTHING who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Jan. 27th. She lived with her late husband, Howard, for many years at Churchfield, Much Birch, but, after several years living on her own, she went to live with her son, Peter, and his family in Hereford about 5 years ago.

Belated 'Congratulations' are sent to MR. JOHN HAMILTON of Little Birch on obtaining his Bachelor of Law degree and to JOHN GWINNETT after 3 years hard work in achieving 'Gold' in the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme.

In the third week of January we said farewell to PAUL DAWSON as Methodist Lay Worker in the Ross and south Hereford area which includes the Methodist chapel in Little Birch. Paul has been a committed, hard working and well respected friend to many and we send him our best wishes as he enters into training for full time ministry and working as

chaplain at the prison in Hull – quite a challenge!

A number of friends in the community have been in hospital recently and several have returned home after successful operations. However, a number are still receiving treatment including some who travel to Cheltenham on a daily basis and we ask that you remember them all in your daily prayers.

FRED HOLMAN of The Meadows, Much Birch, had an operation in the County Hospital on the 17th January and expects to be home in a few days. We wish him a speedy recovery.

History Group

The Little Birch and Kings Thorn History Group are very grateful to all who have bought *Little Birch on Aconbury Hill*. We have sold a large number of copies, in fact, enough to pay the publishing costs. We are also grateful for all comments received and welcome any feedback. It is most interesting to hear about items we did not know about and see photos, or even deeds, which we had not seen before. If we assemble enough information over the next year or two we might even think of producing a supplement! There are still plenty of copies left so if you missed out or know anyone who has, they are available at the Castle Inn, from Alison Clarke on 01981 540791 or from booksellers in Hereford and Ross and from Pengethley. Any profits we make from now on will be used to benefit the village.

Chairs

LBVH Management Committee has purchased a number of new chairs for the Village Hall. There are several of the old plastic chairs which are surplus to requirement. Anyone interested in these chairs, or the old hall piano please contact Jackie Morley on 541027. All offers will be considered.

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The January draw took place on Saturday, 13th January at Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm

The winners were:

1. No. 61 Mrs. Lesley Gare, Much Birch
2. No. 22 Mr. J.B. Willis, M. Birch

The next draw will take place on **FRIDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY** at 11.00am in Much Birch Community Hall. Entry forms for the year 2007 are still available from members of the Committee.

John Jones, *Chairman*

Thanks

LBVH Management committee would like to thank Jackie Morley, for her generous donation to the Village hall, by arranging and funding the re-upholstery of the old hall benches. I'm sure that everyone will agree that the refurbished benches are a vast improvement.

Neighbourhood Watch

Burglary Dwellings

A house in Allensmore (at the rear of Locks Garage) was broken into on the 23rd Dec 2006.

Electrical items were stolen which included a 50-inch plasma TV. If you have any information about this crime or saw any suspicious activity near the premises, please contact one of your Peterchurch police officers.

Burglary Buildings

At the beginning of December 2006, two commercial premises were attacked.

GG Industries at Gooses Foot Industrial Estate had an attempted break-in but, fortunately, the offenders left without gaining entry.

Also at Country Tastes, in Ewyas Harold, offenders broke in by ramming the roller shutter door and a quantity of frozen meats were stolen.

Vehicle Crime

A vehicle was broken into in Shenmore, near Madley and a wallet stolen. This occurred overnight between 8th and 9th December. If you have any information about this crime or recall seeing any one in that area at the time please contact officer in the case PC Fiona Farrington.

A blue Escort Van was stolen from Elm Grove in Clehonger and found a few days later in Hereford. A suspect has been identified for this crime.

Theft

Only a couple of minor thefts last month, one being a seasonal theft of Holly Trees from Lulham near, Madley.

Anti-social behaviour

Incidents of disorder and anti-social behaviour have cropped up again in Clehonger; these occurred around the New Year. Please report incidents of anti-social behaviour to your local police or via the central control room. Depending on the seriousness of the occurrence you may not always see an immediate response from the police. However it is very important to report incidents so we know where to target high profile patrols. Also if you know any of the persons involved please call us and name and shame them so we can deal positively.

Keep your Sat. Nav. safe and sound

Motorists who have been lucky enough to receive a satellite navigation system for Christmas - or are taking advantage of the New Year sales to buy one – are being advised to make sure they think about their car security at the same time.

Sat. nav. systems (and especially the portable varieties) are prime targets for criminals who will think nothing of smashing a window to make a grab for valuables left in an unattended vehicle. What's more, the whole theft could be over in just a few seconds.

Already there have been several such incidents across the county since Christmas, with cars broken into in Hereford City centre car parks. In each case the sat. nav. system had been left in unattended cars.

Herefordshire Divisional Crime risk Manager, Charles Naylor says "Criminals who target vehicles tend to be opportunist in nature. If they see CD's or a sat. nav. system on the dashboard or expensive stereos still in place, they are much more likely to strike and your valuables can be gone in a matter of seconds"

But it doesn't have to be like that. You can significantly reduce the chance of your vehicle being targeted by taking a few simple precautions:

- Disconnect and remove your sat. nav. every time you leave your car.
- Remove any suction mounted fittings and erase any marks from the screen.
- Don't store sat. navs. in glove compartments – thieves may be watching you.
- Mark the equipment with your postcode with an ultra-violet marker and keep a note of the serial number in a safe place.
- Park in well-lit, busy areas or a secure car park.

And finally on a lighter note....

A speeding motorist was stopped by a police patrol. The driver enquired with the officer if the police had quotas on the number of tickets they issue. The quick thinking officer replied..."Yes we did have quotas, but not any more, now we can issue as many tickets as we like." !!

And another one too...

A prisoner in a police custody unit claimed he had a speech impediment, epilepsy, dyslexia and autism, but fell down on his explanation when asked why he was compelled to steal.

The prisoner told officers "I'm a Nymphomaniac". After a few moments of consideration he then said – "No that's not the right word is it. I think I mean, I'm a Cleptomaniac.

PC Christine Griffiths (Golden Valley)

Mobile No: 07855 785 080

PC Fiona Farrington

Mobile No: 07817 019 374

PC Andrew Bundy can be contacted directly by mobile telephone whilst on duty. His number is:

07855 385 844.

Local Reps are :

East

JOHN BULBECK - 540178

Central

BOB PETERS - 540670

West

BETTY PHILPOTT - 540614

Cost of Printing the N/L

We are now up to 15 households who have opted for email copies (This is out of a total of over 500 who have it delivered by hand). Any saving is better than none, but it is disappointing that more people have not come forward. Please consider it and help save on paper, print and time. Thank you.

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **MARCH** 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@fiscali.co.uk By

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18TH FEBRUARY

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