

# NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN & THE BIRCHES

A Newsletter for the Villages of Kings Thorn, Little Birch and Much Birch – January 2007 - First published in 1977

2007

2007

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody in the Community a very Happy, Peaceful and Fulfilling New Year.

2007

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## Newsletter

Usually we print an appreciation to those who are involved with the production and distribution of this Newsletter on the back page, but I think they are worth a front page spread.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Thomas, our tireless Printer, Des and Rose Wathen and family and Dick Brimacombe for painstakingly collating over 500 copies between them, John Bryant and Dick Brimacombe, the News Gatherers, and the army of wonderful volunteers who deliver the Newsletter to your doors. Thank you all for a superb job.

Please keep your news coming in, John Bryant can be reached on 540316 and Dick Brimacombe on 540677 or you can send it direct to me. Please keep us posted on new neighbours so that we can print a welcome, of any special anniversaries etc., and particularly any news of our young people. We also welcome letters on topical local subjects, poems, and even adverse comments too!

## DIARY DATES – JANUARY 2007

31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER – Ne Year's Eve Party  
10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – Much Birch Art Society  
13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – Flicks in the Sticks  
16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – W.I.  
26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – Village Pantomime – "Treasure Island"  
27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – Village Pantomime – "Treasure Island"  
31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY – Gardening Club

### ADVANCE DIARY DATES

20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – W.I. – talk on Narrowboats

*New Years Eve Party* - Please note: this is not a black tie only event, evening wear is purely optional. Come along and see the New Year in with the great sound of Rick Hampton's disco (recently appeared at our very successful 70's evening). There will be a buffet supper to include freshly baked ham, fresh salads and of course vegetarian alternatives. Licensed bar

Tickets £7.00 per adult or a family ticket can be purchased to include 2 adults and up to 3 children (ages 14 and under) Tickets are available now from Jackie Morley 541027, Robyn Hodges 540264 or Amanda Williams 541126. Book early to avoid disappointment.

*Proceeds in aid of hall refurbishment funds.*

### *Much Birch Art Society*

The Society resumes on **WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY** from 10.30 – 12.30. Beginners and more experienced painters are very welcome. Subjects to be covered will include Collage and basic drawing also mixed media of all types.

Demonstrations are given on most weeks. Telephone Fiona Field on 01432 278131 for more details.

### *Flicks In The Sticks*

*(By arr. with Arts Alive)*

This month's film will be **THE QUEEN 12A** at Much Birch Hall, on **SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.**

*Helen Mirren stars as The Queen in this intimate behind the scenes glimpse of the interaction between HM Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair in the weeks following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.*

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

### *W.I.*

Much Birch WI. has an excellent programme planned for 2007.

The first meeting takes place on **TUESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**, when the speaker will be Mrs. Sandra Soanes. The subject of the evening is to be 'Items of the past'.

On **TUESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY** we look forward to an evening with Mrs. Janet Rowlands, whose talk, 'Roses and Castles' is about narrowboats.

**WI meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall.**

New members and visitors are welcome. Please contact Barbara Wilson, 01432 840559, or Kath Watts, 01981 540382 if you would like more details.

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### *Treasure Island*

Tickets for the three performances:

**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 7.30**

**SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 2.30**

**SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 7.30**

are available from The Castle Inn, Little Birch on 01981 540756 and Hilary Gould on 01981 540322.

Please book early to avoid disappointment

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### *Little Birch Bingo*

Due to the Pantomime at Little Birch Village hall in January, there will be no January Bingo. Sorry for any disappointment this may cause but please come along and support the Pantomime instead. Bingo will return to normal from February.

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### *Gardening Club*

Many thanks to all who attended the Garden Club Social evening on December 6<sup>th</sup> a great evening was had by all.

January's meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY** at 7.30pm. The theme is entitled 'Pumpkin surprise' and is being delivered by Sean Cadman.

Please try and join us.

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### *L. Birch on Aconbury Hill,*

The book published by the Little Birch and Kings Thorn History Group is available now. Copies can be purchased, price £10, from Alison Clarke (540791), the Castle Inn, bookshops in Hereford and Ross and Pengethley Nurseries. Thank you all of those who came to the launch and bought books.

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### *Thanks*

LBVH Management Committee would like to offer a huge thank you to Margaret Stringer for organising the very successful 70's evening. A truly enjoyable evening.

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### *Local News*

We apologise for this extremely late entry for Baby Archie who was born on 21st September a brother for Amy and Harriet. Proud parents are Giles and Cheryl Barber Wayside Cottage Kings Thorn.

A warm welcome to the Parish to BARRY and CHRISTINE GEYTON, our new hosts at the Tump Inn. Trade is already picking up and we wish them well.

ARTHUR and JENNY WRIGLEY have just moved from Newcroft Farm, Much Birch to Littlefield, Llanwarne and we hope they will enjoy their new life there, while maintaining their involvement in Much Birch activities.

We welcome SHAUN and GAIL GALVIN and their two young daughters MEGAN and MAISIE who have just moved into "Newcroft Farm" Much Birch. We hope they will enjoy Parish Life.

MR. HARTLEY of Tump Lane is back home from hospital and is recovering well from his broken hip, we hope that he will soon be fully mobile again and LES JENKINS of "Counties View" is making a good recovery from his recent hip operation and is now getting back into circulation.

Members of the Pop In Club would like to thank the Much Birch School for the food items from their Harvest Festival that they gave to the Club.

It is good to see that the 30mph. limit signs were installed at the beginning of Term near Much Birch School.

Drainage work to lead away the water from the spring coming out of the tarmac near the top of Tump Lane has just been completed by Hereford Council, this will obviate the dangers caused by ice forming on the dangerous bend.

An early Christmas present has arrived in the PETERS household in the form of a bouncing boy, JOE, weighing in at 8lb 5oz., a brother for NICK and MELISSA and our congratulations go to proud parents, TONIA and BOB.

This time of the year is always a busy period and none more so than for SARAH FAIERS and ROLAND LEE who have moved into Crossways Cottage, Little Birch and JULIE and MARK BILLINGHAM and daughters, ZOE, KALEIGH and MICHAELA in Wrigglebrook and DR. BATHURST and family in Kings Thorn. We extend to them all a very warm welcome and hope they will be very happy in their new homes and in this community.

LINDA, STEVE and JOE TURNER have moved from Crossways Cottage to the 'Underhills', Hollybush Lane and we

wish them well in their restoration of that property.

The launch of the new book, 'Little Birch on Aconbury Hill', on Sat. 9<sup>th</sup>. December was very successful with over 100 residents and friends attending at Little Birch Hall where copies of the book were signed by the authors. The History Group would like to thank everyone for their support and especially to JACKIE MORLEY, ROBYN HODGES and MANDY WILLIAMS who tirelessly served refreshments over the 4 hours. Further copies of the book can be obtained from Alison Clarke (540791), Jennifer Jones (540698), Gillian Porter (540388),

Barbara Kilby (540040), Adrian Harvey (01432 840466), Graham Philpott (540614), Mike Morley (541027) or John Bryant (540316).

Best wishes for the New Year are also sent to friends who are in nursing or retirement homes or in hospital at the present time and for those receiving ongoing treatment.

It is sad to report the death of MRS. MARGARET RITCHIE, an erstwhile resident and parish councillor of Little Birch and one of the founder members of St. Mary's Guild at the Church. Her funeral took place near Monmouth on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. We extend our deepest sympathy to Elizabeth Kinnell and her family.

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### *Macmillan News*

We have had a good year raising money in the community for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Ross-on-Wye committee, of which we belong, has raised over £24,000 this year, bringing the total for Herefordshire to £750,000, which is halfway to the £1.5 million target for the new Macmillan Renton unit in the county.

We thank you all for your support and look forward to meeting again in 2007 as our fundraising continues.

Happy new year! Chris and Peter Dowsett 01981 541185

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### *St. Mary's Church L.B.*

On behalf of the Little Birch PCC, may I as Churchwarden take this opportunity to wish everyone in the community a very happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Our Parish Church of St. Mary, Little Birch is still open, and we would like to invite you all to join us in taking some time out of our busy lives to worship God. We are just normal everyday people who guarantee to accept you as you are, warts

and all. Please be assured that a seat and a warm welcome will await you at all our services in 2007. The monthly service plan is as follows:

**\*First Sunday of the month** – 11.00am Parish Communion. (Priest led at St. Mary's Church)

**\*Second Sunday of the month** – 11.00am – Morning Worship. (Lay led At St. Mary's with our Methodist friends).

**\*Third Sunday of the Month** – 10.30am – Benefice Service (Priest/guest led (This service rotates around the churches in the Wormelow Hundred benefice).

**\*Fourth Sunday of the month** – 11.00am – Service at Little Birch Methodist chapel, so no service at St. Mary's Church.

**\*Fifth Sunday of the month** – 9.15am BCP Service at Fawley Chapel. 11.00am service at Much Birch church.

As you can see, there is a wide variety of services in which we have tried to cater for all tastes and traditions and we promise that we will NEVER try to impose our views on you. So, whether you're young or old, able bodied or disabled, male or female, we would love to see you in St. Mary's Church in 2007. Best wishes, James Gould.

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### *Much Birch Church*

As part of the re-ordering of Much Birch Church we are purchasing 30 upholstered wooden chairs to replace the choir stalls and one of the front pews. We are wondering, therefore, if there are any members of the community who would like to sponsor a chair, either as a straight forward donation or in the memory of someone dear to them. The cost of doing so would be £50 per chair, which would include, if wished, a small inscribed brass plaque which would be mounted on the back of the chair inscribed with the name or names of those who made the donation, and if given in memory of someone, to include that name too.

If you would like to sponsor a chair, would you please put your £50.00 cheque or cash in an envelope giving the name/s of those donating and if in memory of someone, giving their name too, and hand it to one of the Churchwardens. Alternatively you may wish to send it to Mrs. Sylvia Jones, Chelston Grange, Much Birch HR2 8HR. Your name, address and telephone number should be included so that a receipt can be issued and contact made if necessary. Cheques should be made out to 'Much Birch PCC' If you have any queries please contact one of us by telephoning 01981 540980 or 01981 540501

Sylvia Jones and Janet Thomas,  
Churchwardens.

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### *Much Birch 100 Club Draw*

The December draw took place on Saturday, 9th December 2006 at Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm

The winners were :-

1. No. 107 Mr. Colin Anderson, King's Thorn
2. No. 51 Mr. & Mrs Maldwyn Wylor-Owen, King's Thorn

The next draw will take place on **SATURDAY, 13TH JANUARY** at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall at the 'Flicks in the Sticks' Film Night i.e. "The Queen" (Doors open at 7pm)

Entry forms for the year 2007 are available from members of the Committee. Thank you very much for your support during the last year and Seasonal Greetings to you all  
John Jones, *Chairman/Promoter*

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*Response*

In response to Ross Preece’s question about when a child becomes a young adult, from LBVH fund raising committee. Children are welcome at the majority of events organised by the fund raising committee, but we’ve had a couple of events recently that were deemed not suitable for children e.g. The Haunted Evening. All future events will be advertised with an age limit if appropriate which will depend on the content of the event

*New Year Resolution*

What about making it a New Year resolution to have the Newsletter by email. We have slowly crept up to 13 households which is already saving us £26 per annum.

*Neighbourhood Watch Local Representatives are*

- East**
- JOHN BULBECK - 540178**
- Central**
- BOB PETERS - 540670**
- West**
- BETTY PHILPOTT - 540614**

*Items/Copy*

Please may I have items for the **JANUARY** 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](mailto:sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk) by:

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**18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**  
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*Advertisers*

Please note we have a new advertiser this month.

The following were printed a year or two ago, so apologies for reprinting.

*Have You Ever ?*

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round,  
or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?  
Ever followed a butterfly’s erratic flight,  
or gazed at the sun into the fading night?  
You’d better slow down, don’t dance so fast.  
Time is short, the music won’t last.

Do you run through each day on the fly.  
When you ask “How are you?” do you hear the reply?  
When the day is done, do you lie in your bed,  
with the next hundred chores running through your head?  
You’d better slow down, don’t dance so fast.  
Time is short, the music won’t last.

Ever told your child “We’ll do it tomorrow,  
and in your haste not see his sorrow?  
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die,  
‘cause you never had time to call and say “Hi”?  
You’d better slow down, don’t dance so fast.  
Time is short, the music won’t last.

Some people ( )  
Come into our lives ) /  
And quickly go ( \_/

ooo0  
( ) Some people  
\ ( become friends  
\\_ ) and stay awhile...

leaving beautiful ( )  
footprints in ) /  
our hearts ( \_/

ooo0  
( ) and we are quite the  
\ ( same because we  
\\_ ) have made a good friend.

Yesterday is history.  
Tomorrow a mystery.  
Today is a gift.  
That’s why it’s called *the present*  
This is special – live and savour every moment.  
It is not a dress rehearsal.

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