

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

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury April 2014. First published 1977

## Diary Dates

### March

26th Gardening Club AGM LBVH

28th Village Market MBCH

### April

3rd Much Birch PC MBCH

4th Summer Show reading LBVH

5th Book Exchange LBVH

8th Whist Drive LBVH

8th Evergreen Club Outing

11th Lent Lunch LBVH

15th Womens Institute MBCH

23rd Gardening Club LBVH

25th Village Market MBCH

25th & 26th Halfway Community  
Theatre MBCH

26th Dawn Chorus Walk

### May

2nd Fashion Show MBCH

7th Little Birch PC LBVH

8th Much Birch PC MBCH

8th History Talk LBVH

17th Plant Sale MBCH

31st Rhayader Male Voice  
Choir MBCH

## HALFWAY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Are are pleased to announce their Spring Concert:

### “Thank you for the Music”

Come and join us for a couple of hours of music  
and laughter!

The Concert will take place on Friday 25th and  
Saturday 26th April 2014 in Much Birch  
Community Centre.

Please note that whilst the show on the Friday will  
be at 7.30pm to include the usual light Supper  
(please bring your own drink and glasses) the  
show on the Saturday will be at 2.30pm to include  
a delicious TEA in the interval

Tickets at £10 each (both performances) are  
available from:

Audrey Crowte – Phone 01981 540432

## Summer Sunshine Variety Show

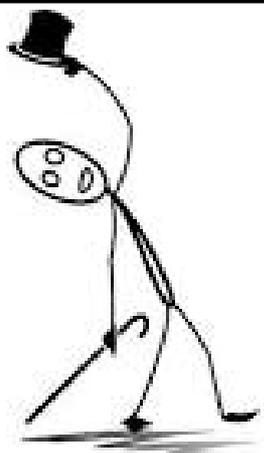
(July 3,4,5)

Bring out your banners  
and flags, good cheer and  
strong voices for an  
evening of entertainment  
and participation! Another  
wonderful evening planned  
with a bar and supper.

The first meeting for read  
through will be on Friday

**4th. April at 7.30pm** at LBVH. If you are a  
regular performer or have a 'hidden' talent for  
either performing or backstage, have a poem  
or two tucked away then please come along  
and join us ALL OVER 16s WELCOME

For further information Ring  
Jenny 01981 541198 or Jane 07541347931



## Dawn Chorus Walk

Meet at Merrivale farm, Little Birch on  
Saturday 26th April at 6am for guided  
tour then back to the Village Hall for  
breakfast. £3.50 per person.

**Call Robyn Hodges  
01981 540264 to book.**

## May Newsletter

Please send copy for the May  
Newsletter to

birchesnews@gmail.com or  
written contributions to John  
Bryant at Bramley Bungalow,  
Aconbury Close by 18th. April

### **And Finally**

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

### **For Sale**

Two Kindle HDs, 7 inch screens, 16gb – WIFI and dolby sound. One is boxed and unused and the other has been used only a couple of times. Offers accepted

Call Richard or Kerry on 01981 541154  
or email [studio@characterdesign.co.uk](mailto:studio@characterdesign.co.uk)

### **Perfect Pancakes**

After what had seemed a long and wet winter it was great to get together with locals and celebrate Pancake evening at Little Birch Village Hall.

The evening started at 7.30 with a flow of locals turning up for the well-prepared spread of fillings that were on offer to accompany the Pancakes. Liquid refreshments were available throughout the proceedings with good discussions on local issues, from Pot Holes to the new shopping centre!

The evening finished with a raffle with compering from Bob Peters.

As usual this was a well organized event and thanks must go to all the people involved with organizing and running the evening.

Richard and Kerry Low

### **Pancake Evening**

Shrove Tuesday evening and the smell of cooking pancakes sent noses twitching in anticipation on entering the village hall. Mandy Williams (Pancake Queen) was kept busy all evening until the batter ran out! With help from Iris Lloyd and committee member everyone was kept well supplied with pancakes. It was a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to all who helped and participated.

### **Geoengineering, the Weather and Health**

Several people from our parishes attended a polished presentation in February on Geoengineering at the Steiner Academy by David Lim a researcher at Reading University.

According to him, governments are controlling the weather and human health by dispersing chemicals in high flying aircraft contrails and by using electro magnetic radiation from the US HAARP project. This may relate to the UN Agenda 21 policy on population control.

In answer to a question he expressed doubts about current publicity on climate change especially the supposed effects of carbon dioxide and thinks that this is designed to conceal what is

really happening.

Information on David Lim, geoengineering, aircraft contrails, HAARP and UN Agenda 21 can be found on the Internet.

### **Local News**

Welcome back to Hollybush Lane to **Brian and Jean Yates** who moved into Birchfield a month ago. They left the Old Orchard about 10 years ago and this is their 3rd move since then!

**Steve and Kelly Box** have recently moved into Rainbow Lodge, Hollybush Lane with Twins James and Amelia aged 4 and Annalise aged 7, all 3 will be attending Much Birch School in due course. Steve is a Linesman with Western Power Distribution and Kelly also works for them as a Technician. We welcome them and hope they have an enjoyable life in Much Birch.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. **DON AUSTINS** of Wrigglebrook who celebrated his 98th. birthday last month. Don keeps himself active and still drives into Hereford. We wish him all the best and hope he enjoys many more birthdays.

Congratulations also to **Jackey Williams**. Her English Setter, Carly was third in a class of twenty at the recent Crufts dog show.

It is sad to record the death of **WIN HARWOOD** at the age of 89 years. Win was born in London and trained to be a shorthand typist and bookkeeper. She met up with Harry and they married in 1954. Harry had served in the armed forces in WW2, was a Prisoner of War for some years on the German/Czech border and the horrors he witnessed so moved him that he became a campaigning pacifist. Their first home was in Dulwich but then a chance came for them to move to Crawley New Town, where they were very happy for many years. They loved camping holidays and later enjoyed the luxury of a caravan. Whist holidaying in Goodrich, they explored Shropshire and Herefordshire and fell in love with the 2 counties so much so, that they moved to a cottage in King's Thorn and later purchased 'Fairfield'. They settled well into the community and Sue quickly made many new friends.

Harry and Win delivered the monthly Newsletter to neighbouring properties and kept a pretty garden. They enjoyed watching cricket and attended Herefordshire matches at Brockhampton for many years. Win was an active member of the Women's Institute and had been at one time, President.

After Harry's death, Win coped extremely well with help from the family and very much enjoyed the company of the grandchildren. Win was an avid supporter of Manchester United and joined the Evergreen Club for their many outings during the summer months. Win loved driving her car and was sad when she had to give up in 2012 due to eyesight problems. She used to take Edith Davies for shopping in Hereford and recently they took a taxi to Hereford for shopping and lunch.

Win was extremely grateful to the doctors and staff at Much Birch Surgery and to Dore Transport for taking her to town and to the Red Cross day at Orcop once a month. Win was very proud of her grandchildren's achievements with Lilian graduating at Newcastle and currently working for Microsoft at their UK headquarters in Reading while Lewis continues his course in Land Management at Harper Adams University. We send our sincere condolences to Sue, Cliff and Lilian and Lewis.

It is also sad to record the death of **Albert Townsend** of Ross, Victor Townsend's only remaining sibling. His funeral service took place at Ross Baptist Church on 7th. March. We send sincere sympathies to all the family.

We are also sorry to hear of the passing of **Nan Raper** a few weeks before her 99th. birthday. She was a Quaker and regularly attended the Friends Meeting House in Hereford. She was also a Samaritan. She moved from King's Thorn some 8 years ago to be nearer her family in Truro. She maintained an interest in our local community and received the monthly Newsletter by email.

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

On April 23rd, Mrs Julia Scott will be giving a talk entitled ' Good health and Herbs'.

This will be followed in May by Jon Mason who will demonstrate the art of making 'hanging baskets and containers'.

New members are always welcome and the annual membership fee is £10.

Further details from John Bryant (01981) 540316.

### **Goodrich Castle**

This massive pile was mentioned in Domesday as Hulla and it isn't until 1146 that it is called Goodrich. The original builder is believed to be Godric Mapson, who wanted to protect the Wye crossing, first a ford, then a ferry and much later a bridge. From the air, signs of earlier ditches

outside the moat can be seen but it must have been a huge operation. The keep is the work of Richard 'Strongbow' de Clare c1160. and the following century, William de Valence who married the Countess of Pembroke, rebuilt the Castle with his son, completing it with financial help from the King in 1296.

Today, it is the chapel that is complete and could be used for services in the summer. It was Talbote who built a wooden balcony so that they could see and take part in the services. The stone stairs to it are still there. In 1500, there were nine priests or clerks and 200 residents in the Castle, mostly soldiers. In 1992, the window commemorating the 1942 crash of a Halifax belonging to the Royal Radar Establishment was placed there. One of the dead was at my school but apart from seeing his name in our school chapel, I did not know him. Then in 2000, Nicola Hopwood put up the 'Upon this Rock' stained glass window showing the river winding around the three parishes of Goodrich, Marstow and Welsh Bicknor. Perhaps the local church could have a once a year service to remember the people who lost their lives defending the castle during the Civil war.

Sir Henry Lingen put a Royalist garrison into Goodrich in 1644 with about 100 men and numerous horsemen. In 1645, the Scots attacked Hereford but the Royalists kept them out. A further Parliamentary attack in 1645 succeeded and Lingen plus 50 of his men escaped to Goodrich. Colonel Birch ( his monument showing him in armour can be seen in Weobley Church) attacked Goodrich, firstly getting into the stables at night, removing the horses and then setting fire to the wooden buildings. He then returned with 'Roaring Meg' the mortar still seen at the Castle. The damage was intense and not a roof remained. On July 31, 1645 Lingen and 50 gentlemen plus 120 soldiers marched out to the tune of 'Sir Henry Lingen's Fancy' and Birch moved in. The castle didn't need slighting and the Ministry of Works (now English Heritage) opened it to the public putting in all the safety measures but still leaving it with an air of magnificence.

John Kinross, Much Birch

### **The Evergreen Club**

Our first trip for this year is on Tuesday 8 April. We shall be going to Nature in Art in the morning, where tea and coffee will be available. We then go on to Nailsworth, where there are many places to

enjoy lunch and then go to the incomplete Victorian Gothic Woodchester Mansion, set in a Cotswold valley. There is a tea room available here.

The cost is £16 (£18 for visitors)

For enquiries or to book, please ring Bridget on 01981 540932

#### PLEASE NOTE THE NEW PICK-UP TIMES

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.05
Much Birch Church bus stop	9.10
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.15
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.25
Fontaine Court	9.35

### 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](mailto:muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Meeting held on the 6th March 2014, at the Much Birch Community Hall. A new councillor for the parish was co-opted. He is Mr Tim Jones and his contact details are below. A big welcome to Tim to the Much Birch Parish Council. Those present at the meeting heard feedback from one of the Assistant Directors of Herefordshire Council in regards to parking issues outside the school and ways in which the authority are going to try to help alleviate the situation, where possible.

#### PLEASE – SCOOP THAT POOP

A reminder to all dog owners to please clear up after their pets. Dog waste can cause dangerous diseases and it is in the interest of us all to make sure that waste is scooped, bagged and disposed of safely. You can put bagged waste in normal litter bins - so you do not have to look around for specific dog waste bins. So please remember, SCOOP, BAG and BIN that waste! Thank you.

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](mailto: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](mailto:turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com) and  
Tel. 01981 540090

**Cllr Andrew Crum** Anfield House, Barrack Hill,

Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail

[a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com)

Tel. 01981 540002

**Cllr Jon Norris** Whitewells, Laskett Lane, Much  
Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HZ, e mail

[jon@jonnorris.co.uk](mailto:jon@jonnorris.co.uk) Tel. 07944 301250

**Cllr Keith James** The Slinget, Tump Lane, Much  
Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HP, e mail

[keithjamesphotos@btinternet.com](mailto:keithjamesphotos@btinternet.com) Tel 01981  
540171

**Cllr Tim Jones** The Wriggle, Wrigglebrook,  
Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail

[tjsj@me.com](mailto:tjsj@me.com) Tel. 01981 540242

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 3rd April 2014** 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 WI

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

In February we were entertained by Mrs Jane  
Bailey talking on The Northern Lights, Where the  
Sky's Dance! This was an extremely informative,  
entertaining insight into the Aurora Borealis - the  
reasons for & the results. Mrs Bailey was so  
enthusiastic about her subject and we were all  
drawn in. The slides made it all quite amazing!

In April the subject of the evening will be 'Cooking  
in Private Service' with Janet Wall.

The May meeting is the Resolutions meeting when  
we discuss and vote upon the resolutions to be  
taken to the NFWI AGM.

The Open Meeting, to which husbands, partners  
and friends are particularly welcome, is on 17th  
July when the subject will be .... 'How old did you  
say you were?' What an interesting subject!!  
Visitors and potential new members are always  
welcome.

### Much Birch Village Market April 25th

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

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, our vegetable stall will be back.

There is a Fair Trade stand and craft stands.

Dan hopes to be back, after a short illness, 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 and crafts almost 'to our door'.

(PS. It would appear that, nationally, we are being encouraged to 'Buy British'.

Even better, 'Buy Local' and help the Herefordshire economy.)

If you would like to have a stall, or to find out more about the market, please contact Mark on 01432 278026 or on the day, Kath on 01981 540382

### **Much Birch Church**

#### **PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING**

will be held in Much Birch Community Hall on Saturday 17th May 2014 (not 18th as previously advertised) from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Donations of plants for sale would be very much appreciated. Come and join us for coffee and a chat even if you don't want to buy plants Proceeds for Much Birch Church.

### **Little Birch Parish Council**

The most recent meeting on Wednesday March 5th and all Councillors were present.

Ward Councillor Jon Norris informed the meeting of a new university that is due to start in Hereford in 2017. It will aim to pull in 20 – 40 year olds to the county and will be a speciality university for Science, Technology and maths. It will be funded jointly from private and government funds. The Chair asked Cllr Norris what was happening with the Core Strategy, and he said that it might not go through at all this year. Cllr Norris invited parishioners to look at his blog for further information:- [jonnorris.co.uk](http://jonnorris.co.uk)

In regard to the Neighbourhood Plan, with the Council's lack of progress with the Core Strategy

in mind, the Chair surmised that it might be seen as a waste of time and money to commit to a plan at this juncture when it has to tie into a document that has not yet been written. The PC was in agreement.

The Chair told the meeting of a great pancake night event in the Village Hall, with over 50 people attending. He then talked about the Village Hall constitution saying that specific Trustees need to be appointed to keep an eye on governance. Following advice from Cllr Rees, a little more research will be done to see if the Village Hall is incorporated or not, before Trustees are appointed.

A map showing the worst pot holes in the Parish has been submitted to Balfour Beatty in the hope that they will be able to start work on them shortly.

The next meeting is on Wednesday May 7th at 7.30 in the Village Hall, this will start with the Annual Parish Meeting, and then be followed by the Parish Council Meeting and all parishioners are warmly welcomed.

Sophie Glover –Little Birch Parish Council Clerk,  
[littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Little Birch Village Hall Committee**

#### **Annual Quiz**

The sixth annual quiz in March was closely contested. The winning team, Wye's Guys including Ward Councillor Jon Norris, won by a single point. Thanks to Kath Watts for asking the questions and the ladies for preparing and serving the food.

The committee would welcome volunteers to set the questions next year.

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

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on Saturday 5 April 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".

A warm welcome, tea and coffee will be provided and we look forward to meeting up with regular and new visitors to the Book exchange.

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 5 April 2014.

#### **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 8 April 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.

### **Pantomime**

A video of the Pantomime Goldilocks and the Three Bears is now available (2h 43 minutes). Copies will be available at the "read though" on April 4th. or call Jackie on 541027. Donations to Hall funds will be appreciated

### **LENT LUNCH**

**Little Birch Village Hall**

**Fri. April 11th from 12.30pm - 2pm**

**In aid of SIGHTSAVERS INTERNATIONAL**

**Choice of 4 soups, cheese and saladings**

**Please support this very worthy cause.**

### **Church Services in April**

Sun 6th	Little Birch	11am.	Communion
Sun 13th	Palm Sunday walk from Sellack 9.30am to Kings Cagle for Benefice Service at 10.15am.		
Sun 20th	Easter Day		
	Much Birch	9.15am.	CW Communion
	Little Birch	11.00am	CW Communion
Sun 27th	Much Birch	9.15am	Matins
	Little Birch	11.00am	Family Worship

### **And Finally**

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.