



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury.

April 2015. First published 1977.

Little Birch Village Hall

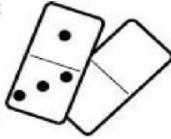
Traditional

Pub Evening

Saturday 18th April 2015
7.30 to midnight



**Real Ale
Hot Dogs**



**Pub games
Competitions
Darts, Cribbage,
Dominoes, Quoits etc.
Free Entrance**



History? Let's Talk about Feet!

On Thursday April 30th at 7.30 in Little Birch Village Hall there will be a talk entitled "Feet".

Feet are interesting – yes, really!

In this illustrated talk we shall look closely at feet to see what they can tell us about where we come from.

Do come along and join the fun to find out more.

Entry £3.00 to include light refreshments



Diary Dates

March

30th Children's Workshop MBCH

April

2nd Parish Council MBCH

14th Flicks in the Sticks

21st Womens Institute MBCH

24th Village Market MBCH

29th Gardening Club LBVH

30th History Talk LBVH

May

2nd Puddings Evening MBCH

5th Flicks in the Sticks

6th Duchy Walk, Athelstans Wood

7th Election Day

16th Plant Sale MBCH

19th Womens Institute MBCH

22nd Village market MBCH

June

4th Parish Council MBCH

13th Monmouth MV Choir MBCH

26th Village Market MBCH



CHURCH SERVICES in APRIL

Palm Sun. Mar. 29th. Benefice Walk from King's Caple 9.30am to
Sellack with donkey for Communion Service at 10.15am

Easter Sun. April 5th. MBirch 9.15am Holy Communion

LBirch 11am Holy Communion

Sun April 12th. MBirch 9.15am Family Communion

LBirch 11am Morning Worship

Sun April 19th. 10.30am Benefice Communion at Much Dewchurch

Sun April 26th. MBirch 9.15am Matins

LBirch 11am Family Worship

Please send copy for the May Newsletter
to birches@gmail.com or written
contributions to John Bryant at Bramley
Bungalow, Aconbury Close

—by 18th April please.

News Updates.... News Updates.... News Updates...



News Update on Wormelow Community Shop

Thank you to everyone who came to the open meeting night and those who are supporting us but were unable to attend. The turnout was overwhelming with a count of 58 people there in support of a shop and post office.

During the meeting a steering committee was proposed, seconded and elected in by the majority of attendees of the open meeting. Valerie Harvey as Chair, Celia Brown as Secretary, Liz Hall Treasurer and committee members are Tessa Bokole, Tom McEwan, Niki Nakamura, Kay Walton, Naomi Darling and Chris Stockdale. This committee will now drive the project forward. The minutes of the meeting will be posted on this page as soon as they become available. The first committee meeting is Wednesday 18th March 2015, at which we will set out our aims and objectives. Also to be posted on this site. We will strive to keep you informed as best we can through facebook, posters, local newsletters and magazines. You can e-mail us on Communityshopinwormelow@gmail.com, and hopefully a website soon.

From the Editor—the committee meeting took place and was very productive with various options proposed for consideration There is now a website <http://hr2communityshop.wordpress.com>

Andy and Sue
Welcome you to
THE AXE AND CLEAVER
Much Birch
Excellent food served in our spacious
Restaurant
SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH
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And an update on the Chapel shop from Alex Godding....

Due to the possibility of a community shop opening in Wormelow the conversion of little birch chapel into a village shop has been postponed until further notice. I wish the community steering group for the Wormelow project well and if I can be of any assistance please get in touch.

This of course means the chapel is now up for grabs. Myself and Tim have agreed I will keep managing the building but we are happy to receive enquiries from any interested parties about using it.

Meetings, Fundraising and Activities

Lent Lunch

The Annual Lent Lunch in aid of Sightsavers International will take place on Friday, 27th March 12.30pm - 2pm in Little Birch Village Hall. With a choice of 4 soups served with French Breadstick or Wholemeal Bread, Cheese, Tomatoes, Celery and Grapes.

Please support this Charity and meet new residents in the community.

Monmouth Male Voice Choir at Much Birch

Following an exciting couple of years, the Monmouth Male Voice Choir is making its first appearance in Much Birch on Saturday, 13th June, starting at 7pm

This large Welsh choir is steadily building on its reputation, especially following their performances at London's Albert Hall, and we are delighted to be welcoming them.

The concert, as part of our ongoing fundraising to save the church, will be held in Much Birch Church where the fine acoustics of the building will be a perfect setting for the evening. Afterwards refreshments will be served in Much Birch Community hall, where there will also be a bar and time to socialise with the choir and friends.

The tickets which include delicious refreshments are £8.50 each with under 12's at £6. Our Male Voice Choir concerts are always a sell-out, so please book your tickets now with Jenny on 01981 540658 or Sylvia on 01981 540980.

The Evergreen Club

Just to remind members that our first trip is to the beautiful city of Bath which will take place on Tuesday 14th April. Apart from the Abbey, Roman Baths, the Pump Rooms and the Jane Austen Centre there are many other fascinating and unusual museums. Lots of places to eat including the Sally Lunn tearooms and plenty of shops.

The cost will be £11 for members and £13 for visitors.

The pick-up times will be:

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.05
Much Birch Church bus stop	9.10

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FLICKS IN THE STICKS at Much Birch Community Hall

Tuesday 14th April - THE IMITATION GAME ^{12A}

Based on the real life story of legendary cryptanalyst Alan Turing, the film portrays the nail-biting race against time by Turing and his brilliant team of code-breakers at Britain's top-secret Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, during the darkest days of World War II.

Tuesday 5th May - MR TURNER ^{12A}

Refreshments including hotdogs available from 7pm

Tickets £4, £3 under 16s

Tickets available in advance or on the door –
for further info or to book tickets
please call Bryony Connolly 01981 580298

For further information about films and
screenings visit www.artsalive.co.uk

Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.15
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.25
Fontaine Court - Ross	9.35

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

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library *

The regular monthly meeting of the 'LBVH Book Exchange' will be on the morning of **Saturday 11th April at Little Birch Village Hall 10am – 12pm.**

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable 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, coffee and refreshments will be provided and we look forward to meeting up with regular and new visitors to the Book Exchange.

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire of hall and refreshments.

Whist Drive *

Your local Whist Drive needs **YOU!**

We'd love to see you at our monthly whist drive whether you haven't played for some time or you're a complete beginner. We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next **Whist Drive** is on Tuesday 14th April at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30p.m** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Fundraising for Much Birch Church

Saturday 28th March 2015 – Coffee morning at Meadow Hall, Llanwarne with kind permission of Richard and Celia Brown. 10am until 12.30pm. Bring and Buy Stall

Saturday 2nd May 2015 at 7pm - Puddings Evening with a Magic Show and film 'Chewing the Cud' in Much Birch Community Hall

Saturday 16th May 2015 at 2.15pm- Plant sale and Afternoon Tea in Much Birch Community Hall

Saturday 13th June 2015 at 7pm – Monmouth Male Voice Choir in Much Birch Church and afterwards in the Community Hall. Proceeds to be shared with Much Dewchurch Hall Committee

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The February 2015 draw took place on 15th February in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am and the results were as follows:

1 st prize - No 99	Miss E. Vaughan Williams	Little Birch
2 nd prize – No.56	Miss K Peers	Much Birch
3 rd prize – No 83	Mr B Clouder	King's Thorn

The next draw will take place on 12th April 2015 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones—Promoter

Pub Night *

Back by popular demand, Little Birch Village Hall will once again be hosting a **Traditional pub night** on **Saturday 18th April from 7:30pm**

A warm welcome, traditional pub games suitable for all ages, light refreshments and a fully licensed bar will be provided at Little Birch Village Hall which will be transformed for the evening into your village local.

An opportunity to meet up with old friends, welcome new residents to the community and learn about LBVH local activities and events.

We look forward to seeing you there

* **Little Birch Village Hall Committee**

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By the very talented Marcos Spalding

And a screening of the film
CHEWING THE CUD
in celebration of the last days of
Hereford Cattle Market

**SATURDAY, 2ND MAY,
2015 FROM 7.30PM**
In Much Birch Community Hall

***A Film, live Magic before your very eyes,
and all the Puds you can eat for just
£8.00 per head with u-12yrs £5.00
Tea & coffee available of BYOB
Tickets: 01981 540980 or 540677***



Items of clothing found at LBVH when clearing up after the Pantomime



The four items of clothing were found during the clear up after the pantomime. If they are recognised as belonging to young cast members or audience (labels indicate 7-8 years) then please contact Margaret on 01981 540 374 to arrange for their return.

Local News

Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

The speaker at our April Meeting on Wed 29th. will be Roger Umpleby on the subject of WEEDS - useful, beautiful but unloved! an alternative look at weeds.

Roger is an excellent speaker to start the new season.

New members are always welcome.

John Bryant 01981 540316

Local Castles- by John Kinross

Lyonshall Castle

Next to the Church, Lyonshall castle today consists of some of the keep, a curtain wall

(which was 19 feet high) and extensions to the moat on the north side. Mentioned in Domesday as the property of Walter de Lacy. It was mostly constructed in stone in 1090 by the Devereux family, who were probably related to the Lacy family.

In 1391, Sir John Devereux contracted John Brown, a mason from Hereford, to build a hall and strengthen the gatehouse and in 1404, the castle was strengthened against Owain Glyndwr but it was a ruin by the end of the 15th. Century.

William Devereux was killed in the Battle of Lewes (1264) fighting for the De Montforts against the King. His lands were forfeited but the castle in 1390 was still in Devereux hands as it belonged to Sir John Devereux, Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover. Later it passed to an attendant of King Henry V, Sir John Merlaury. Much of this information comes from Roger Pye who, together with Brian Lillistone, has written a useful little guide to St. Michael and All Angel's Church

Urishay Castle.

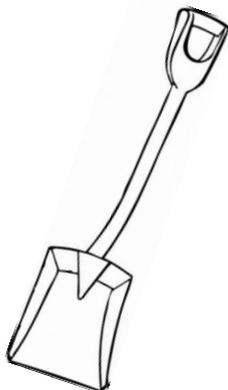
Up a steep hill near Peterchurch, Urishay consists today of a ruined manor, a not quite so ruined chapel and a small farm. The Manor was lived in until pre- World War 1 but was then demolished and the panelling went to Mull and some to the USA. The owners were the De la Hay family and the chapel still just survives in the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches but is in constant trouble with vandals.

The castle was originally a motte and bailey with the Manor built on top of the motte.

Tretire.

Fulk Fitzwarin had a motte and bailey castle here. Robinson describes it as a 'Large squarish mound on which several towers appear to have stood' but nowadays only a steep bank, a tennis court and a private house mark the site. The church nearby is part of the St. Weonards group and has a 14th. century coffin lid inside.

[Local Castles mar15C:\Users\User\Documents\Local Castles J.Kinross Mar 15.doc](file:///C:/Users/User/Documents/Local%20Castles%20J.Kinross%20Mar%2015.doc)



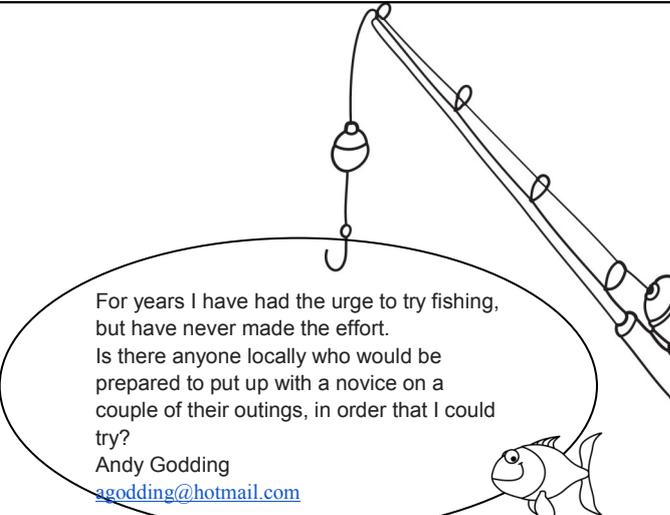
Plant Sale

Much Birch Community Hall
Sat 16 May at 2:15pm

Plants, Cakes, Bring and Buy Bric a brac
Refreshments

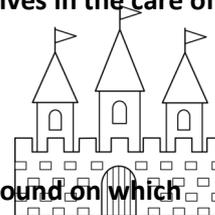
Raising funds for Much Birch Church

Any donations gratefully received
Please contact Nichola on 541376



For years I have had the urge to try fishing, but have never made the effort. Is there anyone locally who would be prepared to put up with a novice on a couple of their outings, in order that I could try?

Andy Godding
agodding@hotmail.com



It is a pleasure to welcome Keilie and Max Bukovets and twins Bodhi and Maya to Linden House, Kingsthorne and we trust they will soon make new friends and be happy in this community.

XXXXXXXXXX

A number of friends have been in hospital recently and we wish them well in their recuperation at home.

XXXXXXXXXX

We are sad to record the death of DONALD (Don) COOK of Kingsthorne at the age of 92 years.

Don was born in Croydon in 1923, the second of seven brothers. He left school at 14 and did various jobs, then joined the Territorial Army aged 17. At 18, he was conscripted into the forces and wanted to follow his elder brother in the Parachute Regiment but to his disappointment this was not allowed. He did however serve in the Army and was involved with and taught the use of radar all over the UK. After demob, he again had several jobs but started as a driving instructor and in 1964 set up his own driving school, the Chislehurst School of Motoring. Having passed the RAC's Instructors Course. He also became a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists soon after it was formed. He retired in 1987 and took up outdoor bowls.

In 1994, Don and Ruth moved to Kingsthorne, He joined Ross Bowling Club and the indoor club at Park Hall, Wormelow and became a firm friend of Ken Pipe. He was very proud to show others the many trophies and cups which he had won over the years. Don and Ruth enjoyed gardening for many years with Ruth attending to the flower beds and Don growing the vegetables.

In recent years, Don's health deteriorated but Ruth gave him the best possible care at home with help from Lucy a carer who became a trusted friend and Mary and Derek Hill, their neighbours, were a great help. Last year, Don moved into Hampton Grange Nursing Home and Ruth visited 3 times each week.

Don sadly died on March 2nd. Family and many friends were present for the funeral service held at Hereford Crematorium on 12th. March, which was conducted by Rev. David Butler, a nephew of Ruth, and the lesson was read by Gillian, Don's granddaughter.

Donations in memory of Donald were given to the Alzheimer's Society and our deepest sympathies are extended to Ruth, Don's son, Graham, and his family and to all the extended family. Don will be sadly missed.

XXXXXXXXXX

Dr. Michael Davies from Much Birch Surgery has decided to retire after 32 years of exceptional service to the community and surrounding villages and we wish him a very happy retirement.

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DID YOU ATTEND YARKHILL SCHOOL?



If you attended Yarkhill School at any time before it's closure in 1970, we'd love to hear from you. The parishioners of Yarkhill are hoping to hold a reunion for all those that attended Yarkhill School during the time it was open. If you attended or know someone that did and would like to be involved please get in contact with Wendy Nash on 01531670508 or email at alun.wendy@hotmail.co.uk.

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Community Information

Adoption in Herefordshire and beyond the borders

Many people still think adoption is only for young married couples but this is no longer the case. The only age barrier is that you must be over 21 years to adopt. There is no upper limit but you will need lots of physical and emotional energy. Single people, those in same sex relationships and people with disabilities are welcomed as adopters.

Every year there are about 20 Herefordshire children of all ages needing a safe, stable, loving home. Herefordshire Council adoption team welcome enquiries from a variety of people bringing a range of skills to suit a variety of children with different needs.

People in Herefordshire and beyond the borders are welcome.

To make confidential enquiries please call our friendly team on **01432 383241**

or email adoption@herefordshire.gov.uk

For further information www.herefordshire.gov.uk/adoption



Dying to Know (part of Death Awareness Week)

Tuesday 18th May

The Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Hereford HR4 9JR

Free workshops from 10am throughout the building

Illustrated talk by Dr Kshesh Sidhu at 2pm and 7pm (£7.50 each; £12 for two people)

An informative and inspiring day of talks, workshops and activities coordinated by St Michael's Hospice focusing on demystifying death for all ages.

The event will provide a safe space to discuss how to have a good death, live a good life and prepare to take control when the inevitable happens.

There will be music, discussions and stalls in the foyer from 1pm, as well as a special Death Café in the Mezzanine Restaurant.

Dr Kshesh Sidhu will give an illustrated talk at 2pm and 7pm entitled "Everything you wanted to know about death but were afraid to ask". This is a funny and thought-provoking discussion about the experiences and regrets of the dying.

Tickets for Dr Sidhu's talks may be purchased from the Courtyard Box Office on 01432 340555: all proceeds will be donated to the Hospice. Tickets are £7.50 each, or £12 for two people.

NB: please bring along a notebook & pencil. A sense of HUMOUR is essential.

We will be offering excellent cake for a donation to the Hospice on the day as well!

All proceeds to go to St Michael's Hospice

We've MOVED!

As of March 2015, phase one of the St Michael's Hospice Redevelopment has been completed, and we couldn't be more delighted with the progress thus far.

Although there is a great deal of rehabilitation to be done in the original building, the Hospice's medical and administrative teams have successfully moved into our beautifully designed offices and spaces within the Inpatient Unit.

Ruth Denison, Head of Fundraising, said, "It was a real team effort; all the Hospice departments pulled together to ensure that everything ran smoothly and to plan. We couldn't have done it without the help of the NatWest private banking team from the West Midlands, who worked tirelessly on the day and saved us further expense. Local businesses such as GB Liners were

PILATES

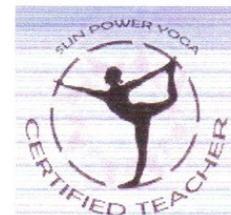
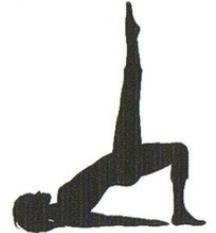
NEW BEGINNER CLASSES STARTING
SEPTEMBER 2012

Mondays 9.30am & 10.30am
Much Birch Community Hall

Wednesdays 7pm & 8pm
Little Dewchurch Hall
£7 per class

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS CLASS
NUMBERS ARE LIMITED TO ALLOW FOR
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

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Amanda Hamilton

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also incredibly important in helping us keep the move on schedule."

Ruth continued, "This is of course only the first phase: we still have a great deal of renovation work scheduled for the first set of buildings we've now vacated, so we can offer support to even more families through better Day Hospice facilities."

And none of this would have been possible without the generous support of our community. Because of you...we are now able to care for even more people and their families and friends when they need us most.



Gardens in the Wild 2015

June 20 & 21

A two day festival set in the unique beauty of The Marches border country.

Speakers include Tim Richardson, Alys Fowler, James Hitchmough and Anna Pavord.

Private gardens opening specially for the festival.

Moccas Park an exclusive guided evening walk in this ancient deer park full of rare trees and venerable oaks, with rides laid down by Humphrey Repton and Capability Brown. Normally closed to visitors.

Stalls offering specialist plants, garden equipment, artisan produce and books.

Demonstrations and children's events

Guided walks for small groups. Early morning bird watching.

Food-to-go from top local producers

Ticketed events, maps and cycle routes

Festival site at Titley Meadow, Titley, Herefordshire HR5 3RL

Partners

The festival is supported by The Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

www.herefordshirewt.org.

Proceeds will go to the Trust and to The Cartshed, a community interest company using the natural environment to encourage health, new skills and enjoyment.

www.thecartshed.co.uk

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Callow, Hereford

Older Drivers - learn how to be better on the road

IAM Herefordshire is holding another of its popular Older Driver Days on **17 April at Ledbury.**

Tina Lawrence, who is a driver training expert, will lead the day with some lively presentations. Herefordshire is a beautiful rural county but driving in both town and country brings its own set of hazards. Topics will include speed, observation, hazard awareness and how to stay safe on the road. Tina will also bring everyone up to date with the latest regulations. A day full of friendly, constructive advice.

Tina says "Older drivers often need their confidence reassured - which is the very aim of these courses. We allow plenty of time throughout the day to ask questions and seek specific advice."

Take advantage of a short assessed drive, in your own car, accompanied by a qualified Advanced Driving Observer. The Observers act as mentors and will give invaluable help and advice on your performance.

Two years ago **IAM Herefordshire** responded to a perceived need for older drivers to update driving knowledge and practical driving skills. They are in such demand that they are now arranged four times a year in Herefordshire – and have now been adopted by the IAM nationally.

David Williams, spokesman for IAM Herefordshire, sums up the need for Refresher Days for Older Drivers by saying "Driving on today's roads should be every bit as enjoyable for the older driver as for anyone else. It's about learning the skill of being in the right position on the road, at the correct speed and choosing the appropriate gear."

Be sure to book your place at Ledbury on 17 April in advance! The cost is £25 for the whole day but places are limited. More details phone 01432 840835 to reserve your place or email safer-drivers@iam-herefordshire.org.uk

IAM Herefordshire is your local charity, dedicated to developing safer drivers throughout Herefordshire. Affiliated to IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) it also runs courses at Much Birch and Leominster throughout the year for drivers of all ages, who wish to improve their skills and safety on the road.

Zea Cleaning.

Have you had enough of cleaning,
just haven't got the time
or need a little extra help?

Would you like a one-off spring clean or regular visit?
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www.furryfriends.gb.com



South Hereford Rural Police Briefing

22nd February - 3rd March 2015

Another quiet period with regards crime in South Hereford Rural!

From Fiona Witcher

Crime Trends

Kilpeck

A copper water tank was stolen from an unoccupied property outside the village between 5th - 21st February. The premises were insecure at the time.

Incident ref 304-s-230215

Scams

A resident in the Golden Valley reported that she had received a call which she initially believed came from the police. The lady that called explained that the police, along with the Fire and Ambulance services, were holding a big exercise in the area and were looking at security, and that they were contacting people in the area to find out their needs. When the resident explained that she was a tenant rather than the owner of the property, the lady terminated the call. This is probably a company cold calling to sell alarms and leading the recipient to believe they are calling on behalf of the police, or even that they are the police. If you get such a call, it would be helpful if you could keep them on the line long enough to get a company name and contact details so we can investigate.

There are alarm companies that cold call, which, although annoying, don't break the law. However, if the salesperson is implying that the police are involved in any way, either by saying the police have recommended them, or that they are working with the police, then they are committing offences.

Another resident has forwarded us a copy of a very impressive looking letter from the 'International FIFA World Cup Online Lottery' with an address in Melbourne, Australia. The letter informed the recipient that he had won £900,000! A contact number was given for the lucky winner to call to arrange collection of his winnings. Needless to say, this is another scam.

Results

A white Ford transit van **BK*3ED0** was seized in **Didley** on Monday 2nd March by traffic officers for having no tax. The driver will have to pay a fine plus the removal fee before he can have his vehicle returned.

Fraud And Identity Theft (from our website)

Fraud and identity theft is one of the fastest growing areas of crime and occurs when your personal information is used by someone else without your knowledge.

While overall levels of crime remain low across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire, the nature of modern technology and communications means that people can fall victim to criminals both here and in other parts of the world.

The National Fraud Authority estimates the loss to the UK economy from fraud is £73 billion per year. In the 2011/12 financial year, 2,715 fraud and forgery offences were recorded in the West Mercia policing area, a rise of seven per cent on the previous year. However, officers believe offences may be significantly under-reported.

Your identity and personal information are valuable to criminals. If they can find out your details, they can use your name to open bank accounts, get credit cards and loans or apply for state benefits and documents such as passports and driving licences. If your identity is stolen, you may have difficulty getting loans, credit cards or a mortgage until the matter is sorted out and you could also find yourself



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liable for financial losses caused by criminals using
your identity.

What Information Are Criminals Interested In?

The key documents and information that criminals
would like to get hold of are your:

- Passport
- Driving Licence
- Bank account details - cheque books, debits cards,
receipts and statements
- Credit card details - cards, statements and
receipts

Other information can also be useful to criminals,
such as dates of birth, home addresses and even the
names of your next of kin. Much of this information
is routinely posted by people on the internet - either
during transactions with retailers or through social
networking sites. It pays to think carefully about
what you want to disclose online.

Types of Fraud and Identity Theft

There are a variety of ways criminals can gain
personal information about you to commit identity
fraud. If you know what to look out for though,
there is a much better chance of protecting
yourself. Below are some of the more common ways
that your identity can be compromised.

Online information

Information can be gained from transactions made
online with disreputable retailers, by computer
viruses which can intercept and send direct to the

criminal information you type or simply by
information you post on the internet. Many of us now
use social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace
or Bebo with large amounts of personal information
available for others to see at the click of a button.

Bin raiding

Fraudsters are not averse to sifting through bins
and rubbish to find personal information. Surveys
have show that up to 79 per cent of household waste
contained at least one piece of personal information
that could be of use to criminals. This can include old
utility statements, bank bills, insurance documents
and even personal letters.

Intercepted mail

Sometimes fraudsters can intercept your mail and
gain a wealth of personal information. This is more
likely if you live in shared accommodation, have a
communal letterbox or move house and do not get
your mail forwarded to your new address.

Phishing

Phishing is the name given to the scam of sending
emails at random that claim to be from a genuine
company such as a bank or credit card company.
These messages often claim it is necessary to
"update" or "verify" your customer account
information and they urge you to click on a link from
the email that takes you to a bogus website.
Information entered on the website (which can often
appear to be a genuine site) such as a user name,
password or memorable data, will be captured by the
criminals for their own fraudulent purposes and
could allow them to get access to your real account.



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Unsolicited phone calls

Any phone calls you receive from banks asking you to update your personal information should be treated with caution. Call the switchboard of the company in question (you can often find the number on statements and documents you have been sent previously) and ask to be put through to the person that called you. Remember also that banks will never ask you to reveal your account pin number.

Courier Fraud

Courier fraud scams, are often targeted towards elderly and vulnerable people.

Typically the scammers will call landlines to pretend that they are from the police, and will state the victim's card has been used fraudulently. They will then ask their victims to call their bank to cancel their cards, but will in fact remain on the line in order to obtain bank details.

Once they have got these details, often including a PIN, they will then send a courier to collect the bank card, allowing them to then withdraw money from the victim's accounts.

Please remember police officers, and banks will never ask for account details or PINs over the phone. They also would not come around to your house to collect your cards or property.

We would encourage anyone with elderly relatives or friends to talk to them about this scam, and make sure that they are aware. If you receive a call like this, hang up immediately and call 101 using another phone. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress call 999.

Card skimming

This can occur when your credit card is cloned by copying your card information with a special device. This usually happens if you hand your card over to someone who takes it out of sight to make run through the transaction, so you should always be wary of such requests. Credit and debit card information can sometimes be copied when criminals tamper with ATM cashpoints, so do not use them if they appear in any way suspicious or tampered with.

Theft of wallet or purse

Your purse or wallet is likely to contain lots of valuable information, including credit and debit cards, driving licences and membership cards. If it is stolen, think carefully about what that information could be useful for and take appropriate action to alert the police, banks and other companies to the theft.

[Find out more about protecting yourself against these crimes.](#)

Remember: don't delay - take action straight away!

If you think you may have been the victim of a fraud, act quickly to make sure that you are not liable for financial losses caused by criminals using your identity:

· Report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre at www.actionfraud.police.uk. Alternatively, you can contact Action Fraud by phone

on 0300 123 2040 (lines are open 8am-8p Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday).

· Immediately report lost or stolen documents such as passports, driving licences, credit cards and cheque books to the organisations that issued them.

· If an account has been fraudulently opened, contact the company concerned.

· Report suspicious transactions on statements to bank or credit card companies.

Kind Regards

Fiona

Fiona Witcher PCSO 6173

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Peterchurch Police Station

Herefordshire

HR2 ORR

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Parish Council details and contacts

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

15th March 2015

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th March at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting heard proposals from the Much Birch Old Charities Trustees who were investigating the possibility of obtaining planning permission for part of the Poor Acre. There was discussion on the play area in Tump Lane and the non return of the play equipment to date. The Parish Council said that it would remain on the case with the Herefordshire Housing, who owns the site, to try to see facilities returned for the children as soon as practicable. The Meeting also heard about initiatives by the “Tump Lane Toppers” to improve the appearance of, and restore the top of, Tump Lane. Volunteers are always welcome to join in with the proposed projects. Please contact the Parish Council for details and ask to be put in touch with the co-ordinator.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 2nd April 2015 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.

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A reminder that your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)

Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecoops@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 Tel. 01981 540090

Cllr Andrew Crum

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Cllr Tim Jones

Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail tjsj@me.com

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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

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