

Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury. April 2016. First published 1977.



Diary Dates

March

30th Gardening Club AGM LBVH

April

- 1st LB Village Hall Quiz LBVH
- 4th Easter Fun Day Old Forge Academy
- 7th MB Parish Council Meeting MBCH
- 9th Ivory Duo "Bach to Ragtime" MBCH
- 12th Evergreen Club Outing
- 13th Annual Parochial Church Meeting MB Church
- 17th Air Ambulance Thanksgiving Evensong Hereford Catherdral
- 19th WI Open Meeting MBCH
- 21st Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
- 23rd Rhayader Male Voice Choir MB Church
- 27th Gardening Club LBVH
- 29th Village Market MBCH
- 30th Phoenix Theatre Singers Bridstow

May

- 7th Plant Sale for MB Church
- 12th Flower Demonstration MBCH
- 26th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

Much Birch PCC

Invites you to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

to be held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 7. 30pm

In Much Birch Church

All are welcome.

Please send copy for the May 2016 Newsletter to birchesnews@gmail.com or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.

—by <u>18th April p</u>lease.

LOCAL NEWS



A very warm welcome is given to Christine and

Terry GODSALL and dog, 'Scruffy' who moved into King's Thorn a couple of months ago. We trust that they will soon settle into this community and make new friends.

As reported last month, the funeral service for Eric DEE, formerly of Tump Lane was held at St. David's Much Dewchurch on 10th. February and was conducted by Rev. Preb. Mark Johnson.

The tribute to Eric was given by his son in law, Martin Stratford.

Eric was born at the Old Mill at Kenchester where he grew up with sisters, Mary and Nesta, and they all attended Kenchester school. His father took the tenancy of White House Farm at Brinsop, some 6 miles west of Hereford. This was a mixed farm and Eric often joked about walking cattle to Hereford market which was quite an experience if gates to properties along the way had been left open.

Eric cycled everywhere including visits to cousins at Knucklas some 30 miles away for Sunday lunch and then ride back to feed cattle in the evening.

He belonged to the Young Farmers Club and it was through the club that he met Isabel from The Woodlands at Blakemere. They were married in the Blakemere Church in April 1955 and spent their honeymoon in London.

Eric took over the tenancy of White House Farm from his father who had previously relied on horses for the heavy farm work and for transport. Eric's ideas were modern and for mechanisation.

Together, Isabel and Eric had 3 daughters, Gill in 1957, Sally in 1958 and Cath, a couple of years later.

White House Farm was part of the Credenhill Estate and in the early 1960's the landlord, Richard Eckroyd, gave notice that he wanted the farm back 'in hand' to expand his dairy business. So Isabel and Eric had to look into buying their own farm and visited Ffosygerwn, a hill farm just outside Brecon, in June 1964, which they purchased for £13,000. They moved everything themselves with the help of friends and the move was completed by Oct. 1965. They kept sheep, cattle and Welsh ponies. After a few years, Eric started up a straw handling business with an ex-Bulmers lorry, taking straw from Herefordshire farms to mid- and west Wales. Isabel was also industrious and started a farm Bed& Breakfast business. They welcomed guests from all over the world, many of whom became life long friends.

With 3 daughters and their families showing little signs of wanting to become hill farmers, Isabel and Eric put their farm and stock up for auction in the summer of 1986. This was successfully sold and they moved into Cedar Eaves in Tump Lane, Much Birch in Nov. 1986.

Eric took up carpentry and adapted his shed to produce bird tables, nesting boxes, decorative mini wheel barrows



Much Birch Community Hall are planning to have *'The Big Lunch'* to celebrate the Queen's special birthday, on Sunday 12th June. As with previous years, we would love this to involve all of the local community. If you would like to help in any way with this event, whether it is with the planning, running the tombola or helping with refreshments, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Bryony Connolly (01981 540097) or Carole Chichester (01981 540095) or email bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com. and one magnificent dovecote. Together they built up a good and varied garden. Isabel and Eric became members of the Indoor Bowling Club at Wormelow and Eric particularly, became a skilful bowler.

Isabel and Eric celebrated their Golden Wedding in April 2005 but very sadly, Isabel died from cancer a year later.

Eric coped reasonably well on his own with the help of family and friends for some 8 years but decided to move into full time care at Charnwood, Much Dewchurch where he was extremely well cared for by all the staff.

Eric was extremely fond and proud of his family and frequently visited Cath and David who were farming and gave helpful advice to his grandsons who were following in their footsteps. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Several friends in the community have had operations or hospital treatment in the last month or so but are all back home now and we wish them a speedy recovery.

Little Birch PCC would like to thank all those who made the various soups and provided several cheeses for the Lent Lunch on Friday, 18th March. We are very grateful to those who washed up and swept through the Village Hall. Very generous donations were made by those who supported this event and £200 was made for Sightsavers International.

Today (March 21st) is a very sad day as the King's Thorn bus shelter has been demolished. This was a local landmark, built by public subscription in the mid 1960's and constructed by local builders on a voluntary basis. Let's hope the new disabled friendly wooden replacement, deemed necessary by Herefordshire Council, will be well maintained by them??

Yoga In Much Dewchurch at Steiner Academy. Mondays 6.00- 7.15

- Tension and stiffness?
- Back ache, backache, general aches and pains?
- Difficulty sleeping?

Learn how to relax and let go. Discover how you can move more freely and improve your posture. A practical approach to yoga that is adaptable to anyone regardless of age or physical condition. All welcome.

- Small group Classes.
- Individual attention.
- Connect with your breath.
- Link simple movements for health and well being.
- Suitable for those recovering from injuries.

Individual lessons also available. For more info contact Mike 01981 250 341

Andy and Sue Welcome you to THE AXE AND CLEAVER Much Birch



Excellent food served in our spacious Restaurant

SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH On Wednesdays—2 courses For £6.95

SUNDAY ROAST LUNCH £10.95 for 2 courses—Bookings advised

Lovely Beer Garden with field for Touring Caravans and Tents

Tel: 01981 540203



Much Birch Community Hall

Prompt Start 7.30pm

Tickets £6.50 to include light refreshments from
Tel: 01981 540980

Proceeds in aid of Much Birch Community Hall Extension Fund

Meetings, Fundraising and Activities

Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI meet on the third Tuesday of each month in Much Birch Community Hall, just off the A49. The Hall is next door to the surgery and both are signed from the road.

Meetings begin at 7.30 pm.

April 19th is the Open Meeting when the Rev. Ian Skinner will be sharing his talk, entitled Celtic Pilgrim, A Walk from Iona to Lindisfarne – Me and my Dog.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.





Opportunities for people living with dementia in Herefordshire.



Carers can take a break safe in the knowledge that qualified care workers are providing support and stimulating varied group activities

9.30am-12.30pm and/or 12.30pm-3.30pm

- Tuesday Hope Family Centre, Hereford Rd, Bromyard HR7 4QU
- Thursday Harling Court, New Street, Ledbury, HR8 2ES
- Friday RVS, 26 Vicarage Road, Hereford, HR1 2QN

Get in touch with us to book your FREE Initial taster session.

For more information please contact your local Alzheimer's Society Office on: 01432 371 137 or <u>Herefordshire@alzheimers.org.uk</u>

alzheimers.org.uk

Registered charity number: 296645

Much Birch Village Market.

Much Birch Village Market takes place on the 4th Friday of the month in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm.

The April market takes place on 29th.

Stalls include meat, bread, jams, marmalade and chutneys, vegetables, honey and a Fair Trade stall.

There will be an extensive plant stall and various craft stalls.

For further information please contact Mark on 01432 278026 The March market

Please join us in supporting local suppliers of food and crafts.

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King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

On Wed. 30th. March at 7.30pm, the AGM will be held to receive reports, elect officers and Committee members. New 'blood' for the committee will be most welcome and please don't be shy if you would like to serve. The programme of Speakers and visits for the coming season will be presented. After the business has been concluded, Janet Gwinnett will show pictures of plants from her recent visit to Madeira.

On April 27th. at 7.30pm, our Speaker will be Mr. Tom Price from Maisemore who will give a 'hands on' talk and demonstration on Orchids, bringing some 10 types for identification and cultural details. Members can also bring their own orchids for repotting for £1 each.

All meetings are held in Little Birch Village Hall on the last Wednesday of each month.

John Bryant 01981 540316.



Hereford Community Farm

Invites you to their view their exhibition

Brian Hatton inspires Breinton

.

Upper Canyon, The Courtyard, Hereford

April 2016 is the centenary of Hereford artist Brian Hatton's death. He worked extensively in and around the <u>Breinton</u> area, where Hereford Community farm is now situated. The exhibition will showcase artwork created in the same setting by older and vulnerable adults.

The exhibition runs from Monday 11th April to Friday 3rd June and is open during The Courtyard's normal opening times.



This project is part of the Creative Ageing programme and has been kindly funded by the Pippin Trust.



The Courtyard is a pay and display car park and nearest public car park is Merton Meadow. There are some free parking spaces at the Courtyard for Blue Badge holders and a drop off point by the side entrance adjacent to the bike racks.



PLANT SALE

AND

COFFEE MORNING

at

Much Birch Community Hall

on

Saturday 7th May 2016

10.30am until 12.30pm

Proceeds for the Fabric Fund

for Much Birch Church

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for April 2016

Whist Drive

We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company at our monthly whist drive whatever your ability. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 12th February** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next **Book Exchange** will be on the morning of **Saturday 9th April** at the **former Methodist Chapel 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 and refreshments.





Herefordshire Rural Hub CIC is a business support organisation for farming

and rural businesses across Herefordshire. Established in 2005, the Hub has grown from strength to strength and now has a reach to over 1,500 rural businesses.

Herefordshire Rural Hub has a history of being able to 'pull' support organisations together to work as a network for the greater good of the local businesses and farming community. You can follow the Herefordshire Rural Hub on **twitter** via **@Hfds_RuralHub** and on **Facebook** search *Herefordshire Rural Hub. Website www.ruralhubspartnership.co.uk/herefordshire*



Much Birch Church

Saturday, 23rd April 2016 at 7pm

Afterwards in Much Birch Community Hall for an 'After Glow'

Tickets £9.50 To include refreshments

Bar available

Ring 01981 540980 or 07787532720 for Tickets



Annual Little Birch Village Quiz

Will you be crowned as a member of the winning team of the 2016 Little Birch Village Annual Quiz? This year the quiz will be held at **7.30 pm** on **Friday April 1st**. (April Fool's Day!) Plenty of time to organise your team of 4. If you can't manage that number please come along as there will be others with whom you can join to make up a team.

Light refreshments during the interval. To book your table or for further information, please contact Robyn Hodges on 540264.

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

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The March draw took place on 13th March 201 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am and the results were as follows:

1 st prize – No 46	2 nd prize - No 77	3 rd prize – No. 84
Mr. M. Jones	Mrs J. Wardle	Mr. K. Davies
Much Birch	Wormelow	Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 10th April 2016 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones—Promoter

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The Evergreen Club

On **Tuesday, 12 April** we shall go to the old city of **Wells** for the day. We will stop for a coffee break on the way

Cost £13 (£15 for non-members).

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

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



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Unit 3, Knockerhill Farm,

Callow, Hereford

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity are having a Thanks Giving Service to celebrate their 25th Anniversary on Sunday 17th April 2016 at Hereford Cathedral. Whilst this is very much part of the scheduled Choral Evensong we hope that as many people as possible can come along and support this service and say 'thank you' for the wonderful care MAAC has given for the last 25 years.

We would like to welcome anyone who has been airlifted, any relatives of those that have been airlifted, volunteers, supporters, fund raisers – in fact any one in Herefordshire who thinks this is an essential service.

If you require any further information please contact: Mary Seldon (Herefordshire Fund Raising Manager for MAAC) on 077234 23354 or mary.seldon@midandsairambulance.com



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Stephen Turner. The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Herefordshire. HR2 8HX. Telephone Office: 01981 540090 Mob: 07768 206296 <u>www.aconburyshepherdhuts.co.uk</u> <u>turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com</u>





WISH – Signposting to a Happier, Healthier Life

The waiting is over for Herefordshire residents!

WISH, the county's first ever wellbeing information and signposting service, opened in February at its hub in St Peter's Street, Hereford, with the most comprehensive range of information about all sorts of things which can help you feel happier and healthier.

Information held in the WISH directory, includes everything from Advocacy to Zumba as well as comprehensive information about how to access care and support from Children's or Adult's Services in the county.

As well as the full-time service in the city there are regular WISH pop-ups across the county for those without the means of getting into Hereford and if you don't want to speak to anyone the WISH directory is also available online at: <u>www.WISHerefordshire.org</u>

The WISH directory includes information on living with a disability; how to access advice about financial and legal matters; and the range of care options available in the county. As well as this type of information the WISH Directory lists over 500 clubs, societies and organisations and is growing daily.

WISH, is being delivered by Herefordshire charity Services for Independent Living (SIL) and if you'd like to find out more about WISH and how it can help signpost you and your family to a healthier, happier life come and speak to the team at our Hereford Hub, or call us on 01432 383880 for details of a pop-up near you.

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Put your kettle on to support St Michael's Hospice

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To find out more contact Gaynor (Big Tea Coordinator) on 01432 851000 or email gwarren@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

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THE PHOENIX THEATRE SINGERS

A Concert of Song and entertainment at

St Bridget's Church Bridstow Saturday 30th April at 7.00 for 7.30pm



£10.00 Admission

In aid of Marie Curie, Riding for the Disabled and Bridstow Church Fabric Fund

Including Wine and Nibbles

Raffle in the interval

Admission FREE for children under 16 years of age

Tickets available on the door or telephone: Thelma 01989 567337 Ruth 01989 563448 Good evening,

I'd like to ask you a question:

Would you be interested in joining a scheme in which *you* could support Little Birch Church THAT IS FREE OF CHARGE and that doesn't involve you coming to church on Sunday?

Of course, if you or your family wanted to join us on a Sunday, then we will welcome you,

but if your answer to the above question is 'YES', then let me introduce you to our new EASYFUNDRAISING scheme:

EASYFINDRAISING. CLICK ON THIS LINK: <u>http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk</u> TO ACCESS THE EASYFUNDRAISING SITE.

Easyfundraising is a scheme where every time you shop on the internet and make a purchase at a retailer that supports the scheme, Little Birch church earns commission AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU. It is similar to THE GIVING MACHINE, but has a few nifty extras which make it more user friendly. These include:

1) Donations Reminder: When you register as a supporter of the church with Easyfundraising, you will be invited to download the Donations Reminder. When you have downloaded this and you access a supporting retailing site, (even if you have not gone through Easyfundraising site), a yellow bar will appear at the top of the page asking you whether you'd like to activate your donation to the church. To activate, you just click 'yes'.

2) **High Street Shopping:** Easyfundraising has a facility where if you register the credit/debit card you shop with on the high street, providing you use that particular card in a supporting shop, Little Birch Church still get commission on your purchases.

Each year, Little Birch Church has to raise around £8,000 in order to stay open. We are committed to staying open for as long as we can, so present and future parishioners can benefit by using its services such as hosting Christenings, Weddings and Funerals. In addition, Little Birch Church is one of the few remaining village facilities still open in Little Birch, and we really need your help to make all this possible.

Please help us by registering as a supporter, spreading the word among friends and family, and using this new service yourself.

To register as a supporter, just follow these four easy steps:

1) Go to http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk

- 2) Click on "Support a good cause".
- 3) In the search box, type 'Little Birch Church' and click 'Go'.
- 4) Click on 'Support this cause'.



Thank you. Kind regards, James Gould.

It really is that simple.

PILATES

with ALISON ALLAN

Pilates is a mat-based class focussing on abdominal strength,

posture and flexibility. It helps restore the natural curves of the spine, relieve tension and enhance self confidence, resulting in a balanced body that looks fit, feels great and moves with ease.

Mondays 10am and 11am Wednesdays 7pm and 8pm Little Dewchurch Village Hall £8 per class

Pre-booking is essential as class numbers are limited to allow for individual attention



STOTT PILATES

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About your team

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods. Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us – in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

Incidents of Note

Much Birch

Between 00:00 and 07:30 on 13/02/16 a garage in the ground of the Pilgrim Hotel was broken into a ride on mower was taken.

Between 12th Feb and 19th Feb a shed in gardens of a property was broken into. Nothing was taken.

Haywood Lane

Between 18:00 12/02/16 and 09:30hrs 13/02/16 a shed was broken into and a container was

attempted to be broken into in the grounds of a property. Nothing was taken.

Between 16:25 16th Feb and 16:25 17th Feb a barn was broken into and a red Honda 420 quad was stolen.

Callow

Between 17:20 and 21:30 at a property in the callow area, an attempt was made to steal a

Landrover Defender. Damage was caused and the vehicle wasn't taken.

Holme Lacy

Between 16:30 12th Feb and 10:40 15th Feb a mechanical grab was stolen from a trailer out side

Holme Lacy College. A shipping container was also broken into.

Rotherwas

Over the weekend on 20th/21st Feb 5 of the 12 bicycle lockers at Rotherwas industrial estate

were broken into. Bicycle accessories were taken and damage was caused to the lockers.

St Owens Cross

Between 14:00 1st Feb and 17:00 26th Feb a garden shed was broken into. An orange mini moto and tools were taken.

Between 12:30 14/02/16 and 09:00 28/02/16 The sheds were broken into at Grafton Clay Shooting Club, by the Grafton pub, Callow, Hereford. f you have any information regarding this please get in touch or call 101 with the reference 192S 280216

Your team

(Part of the Southside Team)

SGT Emma Freer 1348 PC Brian Hillstead 0397

PCSO Lowri Anderson 40247



If you have any information regarding any of the above you can contact Hereford Police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999. Please be aware that any information provided within this letter is to inform you of incidents of note and to request possible assistance. We do not want to worry you in anyway. Any incidents stated are infrequent and spread about a wide area. Herefordshire is a safe place to live!

Get in touch

101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk www.westmercia.police.uk Herefordshire Cops / @southsidecops Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via

www.westmercia.police.uk.

Kind regards

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT West Mercia Police If you would like to receive this Briefing via email, please email herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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Much Birch Parish Council Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire, HR2 9NE Tel. 01981 250860 Email: <u>muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk</u>

7th March 2016

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd March at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting heard feedback about the Neighbourhood Plan Information Event that had been held on the 9th February 2016 at the Much Birch Community Hall. There had only been a small number of attendees, unfortunately, and ideas to get more people interested in participating in the Neighbourhood Plan were being looked at. It was agreed that any future events would receive more publicity on social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to make sure that as many of the community as possible hear about what is happening. The subject of **litter** in the parish will be on the next agenda and also the subject of **dog fouling** along with the health hazards and anti-social issues that this ever present problem brings to the fore. There have been reports of a large amount of



MOBILE: 07771 870891 EMail: bayleys@fsmail.net

fouling incidents around the school and measures to help deal with this will be discussed. Please remember to <u>clean up</u> after your pets.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be an Ordinary Meeting and this will be held on **Thursday 7th April 2016 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.

A reminder that <u>Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are</u>:- **Cllr Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail <u>thecooks@wyenet.co.uk</u> Tel. 01981 540703



Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail

turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com and Tel. 01981 540090

Cllr Andrew Crum Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail <u>a.crum@btinternet.com</u> Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail <u>tisj@me.com</u> Tel. 01981 540242

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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.<u>www.muchbirchparish.org.uk</u>.

You can also find us on Twitter at <u>https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC</u> and Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish