

NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN



& THE BIRCHES



A Newsletter for the Villages of Kings Thorn and The Birches - December 2008

A very Happy Christmas to all our readers

DIARY DATES – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

- 2TH NOVEMBER – Christmas Bingo
- 3RD DECEMBER – Gardening Club Christmas Social
- 7TH DECEMBER – Table Top Sale
- 9TH DECEMBER – Whist Drive
- 13TH DECEMBER – Little Birch Carol & Christingle Service
- 14TH DECEMBER – Methodist Chapel Carol Service
- 16TH DECEMBER – Much Birch W.I. Christmas Evening
- 19TH DECEMBER – Village Market
- 20TH DECEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks
- 21ST DECEMBER – Church Carol & Crib Service
- 22ND & 23RD DECEMBER – Carol Singing in Little Birch

ADVANCE NOTICES

- 23RD JANUARY – Village Market
- 6TH & 7TH FEBRUARY – Pantomime

Christmas Bingo – a reminder.

Please join us on **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27TH** at Little Birch Village Hall, eyes down at 8pm. There are very good prizes and refreshments will be available. This is the last bingo of the year.

Gardening Club

The Christmas Social is being held on **WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER** at 7.30pm. in Little Birch Village Hall. Tickets - £6.00 can be obtained from Rev. John Wilson - 01432 840559. After the usual repast with vegetarian option, there will be a QUIZ.

Table Top Sale

There will be a Table Top Sale on **SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER** at 2.00 pm in Little Birch Village Hall. This is an opportunity to find those last minute Christmas gifts! Tea and cake will be provided. There are still some tables left – cost £5.00. Bookings can be made by ringing Jackie on 01981 541027 or Robyn on 01981 540264.

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER** in Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30 pm. The entrance fee is £1.50. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

Carol Services

Details of Christmas Carol Services are published in the Parish Magazine but a reminder is given that at Little Birch Church, the Carols and Christingle Service will take place on **SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER at 4.00pm.** The Chapel carol service will be held on **SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER at 3.00pm.** and the Church Carol and Crib Service will take place on **SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER at 3.00pm.** in a farm barn (weather permitting). Please watch out for notices if the venue for the latter has to be changed.

WI

On **TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER** the meeting will be the members' Christmas evening. Members of Much Birch WI are looking forward to another year of enjoyable, informative and amusing evenings with a variety of speakers.

Ladies, if you would like to join us please come along to a meeting and you will be made very welcome.

Meetings are held on the 3rd. Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Community Hall.

For further details please contact Barbara Wilson, 01432 840559 or Kath Watts, 01981 540382.

Much Birch Village Market

The December Market will take place on **FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER** in the Community Hall between **2.30pm** and **5.30pm** to give more people a chance to buy some of those 'last minute' things for the Festive season. The first Market of 2009 will be on **23RD JANUARY** when we hope you will join us and continue your support of Local Producers.

Flicks in the Sticks

SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER at 7.30pm
THE EDGE OF LOVE 15

Two feisty, free-spirited women are connected by the brilliant, charismatic poet Dylan Thomas, who loves them both. Stars Kiera Knightley & Sienna Miller.

Tickets £3.50 (£2.50 under 16s).

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly 01981 541274

Films, start times and dates are liable to change so please check before making a journey.

Carol Singing

We shall be meeting at Little Birch Village Hall for carol singing around the village on **MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER** and **TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER** from 6.30pm – 9.00pm. Everyone is welcomed to join in on either or both nights.

Pantomime

There is to be another pantomime to look forward to early in the New Year. The title is still under wraps but it is certain to be another huge success. Please ensure the dates of **6TH FEBRUARY** and **7TH FEBRUARY** are kept free!

Local News

BETTY BRYANT would like to sincerely thank all those who kindly made up shoe-boxes for the annual Samaritans Purse appeal. Through this Charity, shoeboxes filled with everyday items and perhaps a colouring book and small toy are sent out to orphaned children who have never ever received a Christmas present. 32 boxes were taken to a collection point in a warehouse at Rotherwas where they are checked and made ready to send out by lorry with other local collections to Europe so that they arrive in time for Christmas.

Several generous donations for this Newsletter have been received with thanks over the last few months and the annual 'Poppy Appeal' has also been very well supported.

We remember in our thoughts and prayers any in our community who are in hospital at this time including BRIAN POWELL, who continues his stay at Ross Community Hospital.

Village Hall

We are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Short (Vivienne's parents) for their donation of some very smart kitchen units for Little Birch village hall. Thanks are due to Mo Ross and Mike Morley for transporting them and for the fitting which they will be undertaking in the near future.

MB 100 Club Draw

The latest draw took place on 9th November in MB Community Hall at 11.00am.

The winners were:

1. No. 56 - Mr. & Mrs. D. Jones, Much Birch
2. No. 17 - Ms. J. Williams, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 12th December at noon in MB Community Hall.

John Jones, Chairman/Promoter.

Much Birch WI.

Members of Much Birch WI enjoy a very varied programme each year with speakers to interest most tastes and outings which are very popular.

The Open Meeting, in April, is a talk by Radio Hereford and Worcester's Ellie Targett entitled 'In my father's shoes', a truly fascinating story told by a wonderful speaker.

If you are interested in joining Much Birch WI please contact Barbara Wilson (President) on 01432 840559 or Kath Watts on 01981 540382 if you require more details.

Meetings are held in Much Birch Community Hall, beginning at 7.30pm

Visitors are always most welcome to join us at our meetings.

Programme for 2008

15th January	<i>Iceland and the Northern Isles</i>	John Pearl
19th February	<i>A Picture Quiz</i>	Phil King
18th March	<i>Lost in Herefordshire</i>	David Hill
15th April	<i>In my father's shoes.</i> OPEN MEETING.	Ellie Targett
20th May	<i>Resolutions Meeting</i>	
22nd May	Member's Outing – <i>Behind the scenes at Waitrose, Monmouth</i>	
17th June	<i>Quilting</i>	Kitty & Kath
15th July	<i>The Travelling Library</i>	Clare Lockley
22nd July	Member's Outing – <i>3 churches with</i>	Penny Platts
19th August	<i>Home Start</i>	Diane Gibson
16th September	<i>The RSPB</i>	John Clews
21st October	<i>Route 66....music and songs</i>	Richard Jordan
18th November	<i>AGM</i>	
16th December	<i>Member's Christmas Evening....</i>	Valerie Bingham
	<i>Christmas Poetry and Prose with</i>	& Joyce Hughes

M.B.P.C

Report on MBPC meeting of Thursday 2nd

October 2008

The Parish Clerk reported on the following action items since the last meeting.

A site visit has been arranged at Much Birch School, with Clive Hall of Herefordshire Council & Cllr B Wilcox, John Jones & the Clerk, along with West Mercia Police, to look at the parking & congestion issues outside the school, and also to look at the problem of speeding in Kings Thorn.

Lengthsman

Work identified by the Parish Council is to be carried out shortly.

SID (Speed Indicator Device)

The Parish Council agreed to hire a SID from Herefordshire Council and Amey Wye Valley are to install the 4 sockets at the following locations 1. Site at Much Birch School, 2. Kings Thorn, 3. Barrack Hill, 4. Tump Lane.

Planning

Planning Applications Commented on

DCSW2008/2434/RM. Land adjacent to Orchard House, Lower Wrigglebrook, Kings Thorn - Detached dwelling. Application type: reserved matters. Council Comment – **Application Unsupported.**

DCSW2008/2245/F. Court Farmhouse, Much Birch Hereford - Convert existing farmhouse into two four bedroom dwellings, convert existing garage into one bedroom dwelling. Application Type: full. Council Comment- **Application Supported.**

DCSW2008/2186/F.The Chalice, Kings Thorn, Herefordshire - Alterations and single story extension to existing dwelling. Application Type: full. Council Comment: **Application supported.**

Meetings

Halc training dates were noted.

PACT Meeting **27TH NOVEMBER** at Golden Valley Community Hall, Peterchurch Community Hall at 7.00pm.

Correspondence.

Parish councillors had previously been given the correspondence list which was noted.

Next meeting – THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER at 7.30pm.

For information on Much Birch Parish please visit our website www.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

Parish Clerk

If you have any queries on Parish Council matters please telephone the Clerk on 01432 870874, or write to: Mrs. Kath Greenow, Hackford House, Dinedor, Hereford, HR2 6PD.

Neighbourhood Watch

New Telephone Number

From Monday 3rd November 2008, West Mercia Constabulary's new non-emergency number is **0300 333 3000**. There are a number of reasons for this change. Research carried out on behalf of the force has indicated that the public would like a more memorable number for non-emergency calls to the police.

Rather than adopt a lower cost 0345 number which would still be similar to the old one, West Mercia adopted this more memorable number, which falls within a range protected by OFCOM for public sector use only. The new number offers a cheaper call rate to the old number and, having only two digits in the code, is easier and quicker to dial.

The change is to meet public demand and shows West Mercia Constabulary's responsive nature in line with our Citizen Focus agenda.

The existing 08457 444888 number will remain in place for at least 12 months to ensure that everyone is aware and to allow for forms and other literature to be amended as they are used up, thus avoiding waste. People living in the West Mercia area will be asked to update their telephone records and mobile and home phones with the new number to ensure they have the new number to hand when they need to make a non-emergency call to the police.

Crime Trends

A half ton sit-on road roller was stolen from St Weonards 30/09-01/10/08.

A cottage at Garway was broken into on 16/10/08.

A dwelling at Pencoyd was broken into on 16/10/08. It is believed the offenders left when the alarm activated.

A dwelling was broken into at Garway on 28/10/08. A silver vehicle had been seen in area at relevant time.

The telephone kiosk at Wormelow was attacked on 28/10/08. The suspects were seen in a blue Seat car W---JOG.

There have been 10 reports of persons having made off from petrol stations in the area within the last month. On several occasions, stolen number plates have been used. When using your cars please check the plates. If you find them missing, please report to the police immediately.

Lighten Up

Now that the darker nights are back with us, we are once again rolling out our Lighten Up home security campaign, designed to focus on staying safe during the winter months.

Readers will already be aware of the low levels of house burglary in Herefordshire - less than one a day across the county. However, we still need to be vigilant. It's easy for burglars to spot an empty house in the winter's evenings if there are no lights on.

Lighting is a good way to deter burglars. Not only do they not like being seen (external security lights), a house with one or more lights on inside normally means people are inside and their risk of getting caught increases greatly.

If you do go out for the evening, remember to leave a light on (not just in the hall though - no one lives in the hall!). Try using a low-energy light bulb, preferably attached to a timer switch. As part of the Lighten Up campaign, Npower have donated a large quantity of such bulbs to all our Local Policing Teams to give to householders free.

If you would like to try and a free low-energy light bulb, get in contact with your Local Policing Team to arrange collection.

Police Briefings

Since the last briefing there has been yet another drive off from Locks garage. This happened on Monday evening at 7.50pm, when two young males in a white Peugeot stole £45.00 of fuel. The vehicle was displaying plates which had been stolen from a vehicle parked in the car park of the Memorial Hall in Ewyas Harold the same evening.

There was a burglary yesterday afternoon between 3pm and 4.45pm at a house on Garway Hill. Cash and items of jewellery were taken.

There was a burglary in Llanwarne yesterday afternoon between 12.30 and 2pm. Items of jewellery were stolen along with electrical items from the house, and tools and a chainsaw were stolen from an outbuilding.

We had a couple of calls yesterday about three males in a blue Rover X**SEJ in the Orcop and Bagwlydiart area, they were calling at properties asking occupiers if they wanted a conservatory, or new windows. The callers stated the males were rude and very unprofessional, they did have some literature with them, but details were not taken. A check was made later with the registered keeper of the vehicle, who claimed he was working for a company from Hereford called 'First Choice'.

Between 4th and 6th November, a pressure washer was stolen from inside some farm buildings at Grafton

Last Wednesday, 12th November, we had a rogue tarmac team on the patch again.

They called at a property in Allensmore where the occupier agreed to a small amount of work,

there was a hole that needed filling in his drive. The next day while he was out, the tarmac team came and treated his whole drive. He refused to pay, and after an argument, the males left but said they would return for their money.

A similar incident involving the same team occurred in Howton, near Pontrilas, and again the occupier is in dispute and has refused to pay. The matter has been reported to Trading Standards.

The two males involved were using two vehicles - a white Vauxhall Combo van VF5*ODR and a white Ford Transit van Y9**MRO.

Please let us know if they have called on you or someone you know.

A very strange incident occurred on the road between Much Dewchurch and Kilpeck last Tuesday, 11th November, evening at about 7.45pm. A male was overtaken whilst he was driving out of Much Dewchurch, and later saw the same vehicle on the Kilpeck Road pulled across the road, blocking his way. Thinking the car had had some sort of accident, he got out of his car to investigate. He was approached by two males from the car who demanded his phone, money and car keys which he refused. A fight ensued where the two would-be robbers came off worse, and they made off in the Kilpeck direction.

The males are described as aged 19 and 21-22, one was wearing a black hoody, light blue jeans and trainers, the other was wearing a dark waterproof coat, tracksuit bottoms and white trainers. One may have a jaw injury!

The only details of the car is that it was a 'B' registration, and either a Vauxhall Corsa or Honda Civic or similar, blue/black in colour.

If you can help with this one or have heard of a similar incident, please let us know.

We now have our supply of 'lighten up campaign' light bulbs as mentioned in our Newsletter, so if you'd like one, please let us know, they are free!

Finally, can I say that we really welcome any feedback or thoughts on our briefings - it is meant to be a two way process, and it's helpful to know if you feel they are useful, or maybe you are alarmed at reading about crime in your local area - let us know if we can improve them in any way or if there are other items we could be including.

Pact

MAKE A PACT-MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The next Partners and communities together meeting is to be held at 7-00pm on Thursday

27th November 2008 at Peterchurch Community Hall, Peterchurch.

Help us to find solutions that will improve your local community. Make your voice count by telling us about issues that affect your quality of life. Can we help to solve litter or dog fouling? Are there issues of noise and anti-social behaviour? Are you concerned about the speed of traffic? Can you help us with information about drugs? PACT gives you the chance to tell agencies your issues and even help with solutions.

SmartWater

The kits have now arrived at the station, and those of you who have ordered kits will be hearing from me soon, and I will arrange delivery.

Your Officers based at Peterchurch

Local Police Officer

PC Andrew Bundy.

Mobile No: 07855 385 844

Email: andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officers

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher.

Mobile No: 07779 141 232

Email: fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CSO 6993 Kevin Powell.

Mobile No: 07779 141 232

Email:

kevin.powell.c6993@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Response Policing

PC Roger Bradley

Email: roger.bradley@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Hereford Rural South Email

herefordruralsouth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Hereford Rural South Answer phone

01432 346756

Non-Emergency phone

08457 444 888

Emergency phone 999

Local Representatives are:

East JOHN BULBECK - 540178

Central BOB PETERS - 540670

West BETTY PHILPOTT - 540614

And PC Andrew Bundy can be contacted directly by mobile telephone whilst on duty. His number is: **07855 385 844.**

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **JANUARY 2009** issue by via **EMAIL ONLY** to sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk by no later than :

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14TH DECEMBER
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