

King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch & Much Birch – July 2008

L.B.P.C.

The next meeting of Little Birch Parish Council is at 7:45pm. on **WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY** in Little Birch Village Hall. Mrs H. Crane (the Housing Development Officer from Herefordshire Council) will be attending to discuss the 'Housing Needs Survey for Little Birch' which is scheduled to take place this year. She will also be informing residents of a questionnaire to be sent to every household in Little Birch which will need to be completed and returned to Herefordshire Council.

Summer Pudding Evening

All those wonderful puddings you can't be bothered to make, and know you shouldn't eat will be there to tempt you, so give in just this once and come and eat as much as you can at 7.00pm. on **FRIDAY, 4TH JULY** in Little Birch Village Hall. Cost £5.00 adults, £2.50 children (under 12).

Evergreen Club

With an almost full coach, we were blessed with perfect weather for our day at the seaside on the 10th June. We could not have asked for more.

On **TUESDAY, 8TH JULY** we shall have a day at Coughton Court, a Tudor house set in award-winning gardens. The roses should be at their best and there are gentle riverside and garden walks. The cost is £14.50, or £7.00 for National Trust members (but National Trust members will have to pay £2 to enter the walled garden). Guests who are not Evergreen members will pay £2 extra as usual.

The number to ring is **01981 540932**; and pick-up times are:-

- 8.45 Brandon Coach Depot
- 8.55 Tump Lane (bungalows)
- 9.00 The Park, Wormelow
- 9.05 Tump Lane (Middle)
- 9.10 Poor Clares Convent
- 9.15 Kings Thorn Bus Shelter
- 9.20 M.B. Church Bus Stop
- 9.25 Axe & Cleaver Bus Stop
- 9.40 Merton Hotel

Whist Drive

We are holding a Whist Drive at Little Birch Village Hall on **TUESDAY, 8TH**

DIARY DATES JULY 2008

- 2ND JULY – L.B.P.C. Meeting
- 4TH JULY – Summer Puds
- 8TH JULY – Evergreen Outing
- 8TH JULY – Whist Drive
- 15TH JULY – W.I.
- 25TH JULY – Village Market
- 31ST JULY – Bingo

ADVANCE NOTICES

- 12TH AUGUST – Evergreen Outing
- 12TH AUGUST – Whist Drive
- 16TH AUGUST – W.I. Pork Roast
- 4TH SEPTEMBER – Talk – Historic Harewood
- 9TH SEPTEMBER – Whist Drive
- 14TH SEPTEMBER – Dog Show

JULY. We shall start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee will be £1.50. There are excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

PLEASE NOTE:

The August Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY, 12TH AUGUST.**

W.I.

Several members of Much Birch WI enjoyed a morning's visit to Waitrose, Monmouth, where we were taken to see delivery and storage facilities and enjoyed coffee in the staff restaurant. It was most interesting to hear about the different conditions under which the food is stored, about deliveries, the reuse of delivery containers and recycling.

The July meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, 15TH JULY** at 7.30pm in the Community Hall on when the speaker will be Clare Lockley, from the Travelling Library.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Please contact Barbara Wilson (President) 01432 840559 or Kath Watts 01981 540382 if you would like further details.

M.B. Village Market.

The July Village Market is on **FRIDAY, 25TH JULY** in the Community Hall

between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Please come to support our local growers.

Bingo

This will be at Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY, 31ST JULY**., eyes down at 8.00pm. There are good prizes, and refreshments will be available.

Note. No Bingo meeting August.

Evergreen Club

There will be a lot to see and enjoy on **TUESDAY, 12TH AUGUST.** We start with a visit to the Cotswold Falconry Centre. There should be time to see the flying display or, if you prefer, to visit the Garden Centre. There are refreshments here but we go on to Toddington Station for lunch, followed by a scenic trip on the steam railway.

The cost is £14.50 (£16.50 for guests) which includes the train fare, but not meals, refreshments or entry to the Falconry which is approximately £4. There is no entry charge for the garden centre.

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- 9.10 Poor Clares Convent
- 9.15 Kings Thorn Bus Shelter

9.20	M.B. Church Bus Stop
9.25	Axe & Cleaver Bus Stop
9.40	Merton Hotel
9.45	Fontaine Court

Summer Pork Roast

Much Birch WI, in aid of St Michael's Hospice, invite you to their third very popular Summer Sunday Pork Roast Lunch (or vegetarian/vegan option if booked) on **SUNDAY, 16TH AUGUST** at 12.30pm at Much Birch Community Hall. Punch on arrival, hot roast pork, stuffing & apple sauce, new potatoes, lots of salads, all followed by dessert. £10 per person, £6 under 10's. **Bring your own drink along** Tickets: Caroline 540422, Lesley 540366 or Ann 540072. Much Birch WI fundraising for St Michael's Hospice

Historic Harewood

On **WEDNESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER** Heather Hurley will give a talk on Historic Harewood. It will take place at 7.30 in Little Birch Village Hall. This promises to be a fascinating account of the history of Harewood, the house and the park so put a note in your diaries now. Heather will follow up the talk with a walk through Harewood Park on Sunday September 14th, details to be arranged. The talk will be accompanied by light refreshments and entry will be £2.50.

Little Birch Dog Show,

On **SUNDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER** we shall be organising our Dog Show. All dog lovers and fanciers are asked to keep this day free for what promises to be a most enjoyable day. The venue is to be confirmed.

Local News

DAVID PRICE of St. Gabriels Cottage had a half knee replacement in the County Hospital on the 16th May which was a great success. He will be having another half knee replacement on the 20th June and we wish him an equally rapid recovery from this one. Likewise ANDY LOWE has just had a knee replacement and we wish him a speedy recovery too.

Congratulations are extended to MARILYN and GLYN KAYE-ALLEN on the very recent birth of their son, (yet to be named), a brother for Amber, a grandson for Pauline and Brian Kaye and a great grandson for Ernest Hoyes.

There have been several celebrations recently in the POWELL household at Green Farm. Both RHYS and KYRA have been awarded a B.Sc. Degree, Rhys in Computer Systems at Stafford University and Kyra in Spatial Design at Hereford

Art College. Their graduation ceremonies take place on successive days early this month. Also GARTH, who trained in nursing but with the cutbacks in posts, has been teaching disabled boys, has now taken up a nursing appointment in Cardiff. Congratulations to all three!

Good wishes and congratulations also go to DOT SKYRME, who is this year's President of the Herefordshire Lady Bowlers.

Last month, we said farewell to the TIERNEY family and we give a warm welcome to DAMIAN COLE, who is coming to live at 2, Coronation Cottages, King's Thorn.

MR. FRANK WHITE, erstwhile of Much Birch, passed away on 29th May after a long illness. He was 79 years old. His funeral took place at Belmont Abbey on Friday, 6th June and was conducted by an old friend, Father Mark Jabale. Frank was educated at Belmont Abbey School. Later, he married Elaine and 3 children came along in due course, Sue, Chris and Michael. Frank always worked in the poultry industry and was General Manager at Sun Valley in the 1960's, then moved to Marshalls in Scotland and finally, Webbs in Bournemouth. His hobbies included sailing, woodcarving and engraving. He was also President of the Belmont Old Boys. Elaine and Frank came to retire in Much Birch some 14 years ago and moved to Belmont in 2006. He will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends and we send our deepest sympathies to Elaine, Sue, Chris and Mike and their families.

At the ripe old age of 96, MR COLIN ECKLEY passed peacefully away at the County Hospital on June 2nd. Colin lived most of his life in Hoarwithy but moved to Much Birch some 3 years ago, living at first with his daughter, Janet at Brynsmead and latterly with daughter, Pat Gutteridge at Sunnycroft, nearby on the A49. He was a familiar figure on his zimmer frame wending his way slowly to the Axe and Cleaver every lunch time for his daily pint. One could set the clock by his appearance as he arrived there at 1.45pm. and left at 2.45pm. Colin was a very able gardener and worked for many years at the erstwhile Thorn Lighting factory on the Rotherwas Estate. He had 4 daughters, Janet, Pat, June and Margaret and we extend to them and their families our sincere condolences.

It is also sad to hear of the sudden death of RICHARD JELLARD of Hollybush Lane, in his 90th year. Richard had been in Ross Community Hospital for a short while and was preparing to come home the next day when he sat in an armchair and passed away, which was a awful shock to the family. Richard was born near

Abergavenny, moved to Sussex and then served with the RAF in World War 2, qualifying as a pilot and spent much of his service as a flying instructor. After the war, he worked in London as a Quantity Surveyor before moving back to Herefordshire in retirement. Richard and his wife, Barbara, celebrated their Golden Wedding a few years ago. They had a son, Anthony and a daughter, Trish, who both live locally. Richard enjoyed cricket, hockey, walking and gardening and everything he did was kept neat and tidy. His funeral Service took place at Llanvihangel Crucorney on Wed. 18th June and he will be very sadly missed by Barbara, Anthony, Trish and grandchildren, Bruce and Gabby, to whom we send our sincere sympathies.

Open Garden at Uplands

Our thanks to Jackie and Mike Morley for opening their lovely garden (in aid of Little Birch Village Hall) on Sunday 15th June. On a sunny afternoon, the visitors enjoyed a warm welcome and a delicious tea prepared by members of the committee and volunteer helpers. The book and plant stalls and raffle were busy and the afternoon was a great success. Thank you to all who supported this enjoyable event.

Parish Initiative

Herefordshire Council is promoting a 'Parish Initiative' where the Highways and Transportation Department are working in partnership with Amey Wye Valley and HALC to provide a fair and consistent way for highway defects to be reported. Each parish needs to report any defects to Herefordshire Council one month prior to their scheduled quarterly inspection. The inspection months allocated to Little Birch are January, April, July and October. If any residents wish to report any problems with the roads within Little Birch, please contact Liz Callwood, Parish Clerk on 01981 540081 or liz@hgta.org.

SmartWater

We are expecting a large delivery of SmartWater kits in the next couple of weeks, they are selling very quickly, if you are interested in finding out more, please let me know.

SmartWater signs are available to purchase. These are intended to be displayed in villages or on commercial properties, or farms etc, and are £15.00 each. We have been given funding to help offset the cost of these signs, so for every one that is purchased, we will provide a second, free of charge - in other words, Buy One Get One Free! (This is only for a limited period however.) We have

already sold to several Parish Councils, please let us know if you are interested. Please note that where the signs are to be placed on the highway, planning permission is needed from the Council, but I have spoken to them and it would appear it is a fairly simple process. Contact Fiona Witcher on Mobile No: 07779 141232

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The June draw took place on Saturday, 16th June in Much Birch at 4.00pm
The winners were:

1. No. 21 - Mrs J. Lewis, Much Birch
2. No. 94 - Miss L. Randall, Kings Thorn

The next draw will take place on 15th July 2008 at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones, *Chairman/Pro moter*

Pilgrimage

Having returned from Spain twelve days ago, I still feel unable to begin to process all the experiences of the journey. However, putting it objectively, I walked the 500 miles from St Jean Pied de Port in the French Pyrenees to Santiago in Galicia, in 29 days, which included a "rest day" in the beautiful city of Burgos. Guidebooks differ on the actual mileage, but taking into account walks around towns, occasionally getting lost, and alternative routes for adventurous walkers, it was probably a lot more than the 500 miles.

I carried my pack all the time, and most of the walking was done in the mornings, starting at around 7.00am and arriving at the next hostel in the early afternoon. The hostels provided the basics of a bed (mostly bunks), hot showers, facilities for washing clothes and occasionally a kitchen for preparing food. Hostels cost anything from nothing to 9 euros for the night, and they varied in the standard of their facilities.

Food was purchased on route, with hostels occasionally providing breakfast and an evening meal. Generally I ate out in the evening with other pilgrims because local bars and restaurants often provided a "menu peregrino" which consisted of a three course meal with bread and wine, all for around 8 euros.

The walk was packed with history (both natural and social), geography, the mental challenge of foreign languages, the physical challenge of the walking, all within the spiritual context of pilgrimage. But most important of all were the amazing encounters with people from all over Europe, the Americas, Australia, New Zealand, Korea and Japan. The shared experience of the camino was what made it so special, but paradoxically,

those who got the most out of this were those who, like me, were travelling alone. The goal, Santiago, was a magnificent medieval city full of pilgrims on foot, on bikes, in cars and coaches, and the general atmosphere was one of celebration. For me it certainly did not feel like an end, and indeed, as one writer put it, "the Camino really begins when you get home". I hope to be able to share my experience in more detail at some future date.

Peter Garlick

Neighbourhood Watch

The following crimes have been brought to our attention since the last briefing.

On **5th June**, some cash was stolen from an office in **Dinedor**.

Overnight **5th/6th June**, a trolley Jack was stolen from a commercial premises in **Wormelow**. Thieves cut a hole in the perimeter fence of the premises, but once inside, all they could find to steal was the trolley jack!

On **8th June**, occupiers of a premises in **Hoarwithy** woke to find they had been burgled overnight. Thieves had broken in via a front window facing the street, and stolen a laptop and printer, a digital camera, credit cards and cash. They also took both sets of keys for a vehicle parked at the premises, but the vehicle was not taken. On the same night, a premises at **Bridstow**, near Ross on Wye, was also broken into and similar items stolen, it is believed that the same persons are responsible.

This morning at 3am, thieves were spotted stealing lead and roof tiles from an abandoned property in **St Owens Cross**, police attended but the thieves had gone, leaving their vehicle and the stolen items at the scene. Enquiries are in hand by **Ross Officers** to trace the owners of the vehicle, a white transit panel van 'N' registration.

Between **1st and 6th June** 6 metal sheep feeders were stolen from fields in **Allensmore**, presumably for scrap. Farmers - please try and move your metal items to where they are not visible from the road if at all possible.

Between 6pm on **Tuesday, 10th June** and 8am on **Wednesday, 11th June**, thieves stole a large quantity of power tools, valued at approximately £1,200, from a farm in **Bolstone**.

Due to the increasing value of scrap metal, we are receiving more and more reports of metal thefts. We have had two similar incidents where cars have been stolen for their scrap value.

Between **1st & 4th June** a **black BMW SE** saloon was stolen from the garage area of **Tump Lane** in **Wormelow**. Two males

in a 4x4 vehicle had been seen around previously asking about the car.

On **Monday 9th June** two old cars were stolen from a garden in **Little Birch**, the owner had been approached the previous week by two males in an old black and silver 4x4, asking if he wanted to sell it, he declined their offer and they left. He described the men as both white, one about 30 with short dark hair, the other mid 40's wearing a flat cap. The vehicle was taken about 1pm on Monday, a large transporter type vehicle was seen by neighbours to take the vehicles, but they had no suspicions at the time, they thought the owners of the vehicles had arranged for them to be removed. Enquiries by the owner reveal that the cars were taken to a local scrap yard that afternoon. Enquiries are in hand by **PC Bundy** as I write.

We need you all to be vigilant, as with many of these crimes, they are committed in broad daylight under our noses, so to speak! Please don't assume that something is legitimate, be suspicious of everything and take down registration numbers, descriptions etc, and contact us, either on the mobiles or the main switchboard on 08457 444 888. Do not challenge anyone yourselves.

Your Officers based @ Peterchurch

Sgt Robin Davies

Email: robin.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Local Police Officer

PC Andrew Bundy

Mobile No: 07855 385 844

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

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher

Mobile No: 07779 141232

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

Community Support Officers

CSO 6993 Kevin Powell

Mobile No: 07779 141 232

Email: kevin.powell@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Hereford Rural South Answer phone

01432 346756

Non-Emergency phone

08457 444 888

Emergency phone 999

Your Local Representatives

East

JOHN BULBECK - 540178

Central

BOB PETERS - 540670

West

BETTY PHILPOTT - 540614

Items/Copy

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO NEWSLETTER IN AUGUST.

May I have items for the **SEPTEMBER** issue via post to:

Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD; or left in the post box at 'Bramleys' or by email attachment in Word format to: sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk by