



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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

July 2015. First published 1977.

Pantomime Group

The group is planning to perform

Camelot-The Pantomime

on February 5th and 6th February 2016.
First reading and auditions, directed by Jane Bolam, will be on Sunday 27th September. More details will be in the September Newsletter or call Jane on 07508345879.

The 2015 pantomime, Peter Pan, is available on DVD. Copies are free but a contribution to hall funds would be appreciated.
Call Jackie on 541027.

Joint Party

Iris Lloyd and Sally Nichol would like to thank everyone who came and made their 70th and 60th birthday party so enjoyable and also to thank them for their kindness and generosity. £550 was donated to the Starlight Children's Foundation. Donations totalling £290 were also made towards a defibrillator for installation at the village hall.

Party-goers were entertained by the inaugural appearance of OGD (Old Gits Disco) provided and run by Geoff Nichol. The equipment, including lights and moving pictures, was impressive and the choice of music excellent for the occasion. Could this be the start of a new era in music at the hall?

Church Services in July and August



July 7th.	Little Birch 11am. Holy Communion.
July 12th	MBirch. 9.15am Family Communion LBirch 11am Morning Worship
July 19th.	Benefice Service at Little Birch 10.30am.
July 26th	MBirch 9.15am. CW Communion

Aug 2nd	Archenfield Group Service for Lammastide in Newhouse Wood, at 11am.
Aug 9th.	Little Birch 11am BCP Communion.
Aug 16th	MBirch 9.15am Family Communion.
Aug 23rd	MBirch 9.15am Matins. LBirch 11am Family Worship
Aug 30th	MBirch 9.15am Communion Fawley Chapel 11am. BCP Communion.

Diary Dates

June

24th Gardening Club Visit
26th Village Market MBCH
28th Violette Szabo's Special Day

July

6th Little Birch Parish Council LBVH
9th Much Birch Parish Council MBCH
11th Little Birch Church Fete
14th Evergreen Club outing
21st WI Meeting MBCH
24th Village Market MBCH
29th Gardening Club LBVH

August

1st Book Exchange LBVH
11th Whist Drive LBVH
18th WI Meeting MBCH
18th History Group walk
28th Village Market MBCH

September

5th Gardening Open Show LBVH
19th Hereford Rail Male Choice LBVH
27th Panto Auditions LBVH

Please send copy for the September Newsletter to birches@gmail.com or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close
—by 18th August please.



Local News

A very warm welcome is given to Kellie and Dan Graves and their children, McKinley and Cameron, who have moved into King's Thorn and we trust that they will soon settle in their new home and be happy in the community. McKinley and Cameron will start at Much Birch School in the autumn term.

Dr. Michael Davies wishes to thank all those who sent cards and good wishes on his retirement and especially for the generous donations for St. Michael's Hospice which totalled over £3000. We wish Michael a long and happy retirement after more than 30 years of excellent service to these parishes and the surrounding area.

Congratulations are extended to Gillian Brimacombe for over 35 years service as the local organiser for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Day Appeal. Sadly, she is having to retire from this position but we thank her for her outstanding duty. Congratulations also to Jessica Hodges who has been accepted for a course at Wolverhampton University starting in the autumn.

Sadly, the death of Mr. Owen Davies of Much Dewchurch has occurred at the age of 93 years. Owen ran the Forge at Much Dewchurch for over 30 years and maybe more. He was a wonderful gardener and was very generous with his produce and plants. He was a member of King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club for over 20 years and regularly exhibited at the Annual Show, winning many prizes. He will be sorely missed! We extend to Fleur and daughters, Katie and Zara and her family, our deepest sympathy.

It is also sad to note the death of Mrs. Edith Lea of Wrigglebrook and we send to her family our sincere condolences.

Meetings, Fundraising and Activities

King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

The meeting on July 29th in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm will be a 'Summer Special'. Paul Green from Newent will talk about Delicious Plants and Strawberries. The talk will be followed by 'Strawberries and Cream'.



The annual Open Show will take place in Little Birch Hall on Sat. Sep. 5th.

Entries to be staged by 10.45am, the Hall will close at 11am for judging and will open at 2pm. for public viewing. The full schedule will be attached to the July/Aug edition of the Birches Newsletter.

Please note that a Children's Workshop has been arranged for Fri. 4th Sep at 4.30pm

Further information from John Bryant 01981 540316

Little Birch Church Summer Fete

The Fete will be held at The Old Rectory by kind invitation, on SATURDAY, July 11th, from 2pm.

There will be the usual stalls selling Cakes, Plants, Books and Bric a brac.

Children's Games, Coconut shy, Bottle stall and a 'Scarecrow Competition. Plus a Grand Draw. Childrens Books and general reading books would be very much welcomed. Gifts of Cakes and Plants and Draw Prizes will be welcomed.

Everyone most welcome. John Caton 540267, Steve Turner 540090, James Gould 540676, John Bryant 540316.

Plant Sale at Much Birch

A big thank you to all who contributed to Much Birch Church Plant Sale on 16th May 2015, to those who grew and donated plants, made cakes, served at the stalls and of course to those who worked hard to set up the event. We made an excellent profit of £472.00. Sylvia Jones

Little Birch Church

A Concert by the HEREFORD RAIL MALE Choir will take place in Little Birch Village Hall on Sat. 19th September.

Please make a note in your diary for this most popular event.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The regular monthly meeting of the 'LBVH Book Exchange' will be on the morning of **Saturday 1st August 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.

Thanks are due to all the friends who lay out the books, store them away and serve refreshments each month.

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 11th August** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30p.m** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.



Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall. The July meeting will be held on 21st when the speaker will be Yvonne Mort, giving a demonstration on Pressed Flowers.

Visitors and potential new members are welcome. Please contact Gillian, 01981 540080 or Caroline, 01981 540422 for more details.

Much Birch Village Market

MBVM takes place on the 4th Friday of the month (except December, when it is the 3rd Friday), in Much Birch Community Hall, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm

The July market will be held on 24th.

Stalls will include; Moor Meals, award winning, local suppliers of Dexter

beef, ready meals and pies, Llandinabo Farm shop, selling sausages, chicken, duck, lamb etc. as well as some cooked meats and cheese. Also we have Castle Cheese, and Mr. G's award winning chutney and preserves.

We hope new stalls will include Ready Made Indian sauces and Spices Kitts, Metal Garden Ornaments, Lambswool products, honey and silver jewellery.

There will be the usual craft stand selling greeting cards (orders can be taken for personalised cards and gifts) and a Fair Trade stand.

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

Mark has worked hard to encourage new stall holders so, please support this local venture.

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The June 2015 draw took place on 14th June 2015 in Much Birch Community Hall and the results were as follows:

1 st prize - No 90	2 nd prize – No 74	3 rd prize – No 37
Mrs. M. Bythe	Miss A. Hardy	Miss J. Dawson
Much Birch	Drybrook	Kivernoll
	Gloucestershire	

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

John Jones
Promoter

The Evergreen Club

On **Tuesday 14 July** we are going to the Cotswolds. In the morning we stop at Broadway, where there are several places to find lunch. In the afternoon we will go to the Cotswold Lavender Farm, hoping to see the fields at their best. There is a tea room here.

Cost is £10 for members (visitors £12) plus £2.50 if you wish to walk through the lavender fields

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

Fontaine Court - Ross

9.35

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

Walk with a historical theme

The History Group has organised a walk on **Tuesday August 18th** to be led by Heather Hurley. We will start from the Lough Pool to **Sellack Church**, the river crossing and then past **Caradoc** and back to the Lough Pool.

Heather will give us lots of historical detail along the way. Both sites have a fascinating past. We hope you will come and join us. We will meet at the Lough Pool at **10.30** and plan to finish between 12.30 and 1.00, just in time for **lunch at the Lough Pool** where we would be very pleased if you would join us.



Request from David Harlow

The Newsletter received an email from our new Conservative Ward Councillor that included the following,....

One of the most consistent pieces of feedback I heard whilst canvassing for the election was that people hear very little from politicians between elections. I'd very much like to change this by being more accessible to the people of Birch. My role is to be a link between Herefordshire county council and the people/ parishes of the area. The next four years will be a time of reducing budgets but I believe that parishes will play a vital role in keeping the community together. I'd very much like to see an increase in the power and profile of local parishes and to get more people involved in parish councils as the first rung of our democracy. I'm writing to you in your capacity as editor of the community magazine to see if I could write a regular column for the magazine keeping the readership abreast of what is going on in Hereford as so much of what we do will affect them.

Policy in the past was not to publish submissions from politicians. Producers of the Newsletter would now like to hear from readers if they think that this policy should be re-considered. Please give your opinion by email to birchesnews@gmail.com



South Hereford Rural Police Briefing

21st May - 4th June 2015

Crime Trends

Kingstone

Sometime overnight on Sunday 31st May/ Monday 1st June, a container at an industrial unit on the Dene Industrial Estate was broken into, however there was nothing inside to steal so the would be thieves left empty handed.

Incident ref 320-s-010615

A brick and timber workshop at Webton Court was broken into between 8pm on Monday 1st June and 7am on Tuesday 2nd June. A padlock was forced off the doors and a quantity of power tools were stolen including two angle grinders, an electric drill, a set of ratchet spanners, a Stihl chainsaw and a Lawnflight strimmer.

Incident ref 189-s-020615

Between 9am and 3.45pm on Tuesday 2nd June a detached garage used as a workshop at a property outside the village was broken into and a large quantity of tools connected to tree surgery work were stolen.

Incident ref 343-s-020615

Orcop

Between 8am and 4pm on Wednesday 20th May, a garden shed was broken into and an orange and black Husqvana CTH 160 ride on mower was stolen.

Incident ref 446-s-200515

Scams

A reader has asked me to share the following details regarding an incident that happened to a friend in Hereford -

A friend of mine was robbed recently in town, it was obviously well planned – she had just put her bag in her car in Waitrose car park and she saw a man who seemed distressed – he said he wanted to get to the hospital and needed directions but wanted her to draw a map as his

English wasn't good. He obviously had an accomplice as her bank cards were taken while she was busy giving him a map. I just thought people should be aware. They had obviously watched her using her card as they used her pin to withdraw fairly large amounts of money.

The below link will take you to a very useful guide to avoiding all manner of scams produced by the Metropolitan Police recently. It takes a minute to download but is well worth looking at.

http://www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_campaign=hootsuite

Neighbourhood Watch

I have been asked to circulate the following information by Inspector Barnett..

I would like to update you on a new initiative that your local Police, in Herefordshire, are undertaking. The initiative is the employment of a dedicated Watch Scheme Coordinator. This new post has been possible because of a ground breaking partnership with Ross on Wye NFU Mutual and has been funded by West Mercia Police, Police and Crime Commissioner's Rural Crime Fund. Mr Paul Crumpton is the new Watch Coordinator. He can be contacted by email at paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or by telephone on 01905 727402 or through our switchboard on 101 extension 67102. Please contact him if you are currently in a Watch Scheme, interested in starting one or just want some more information before making a decision.

National Rural Crime Survey

What are your views on police response in your area? How does crime and the fear of crime impact your community?

Are you concerned about threats to wildlife? Give us your views on policing and crime and help us protect rural areas.

In response to concerns from people living and working in rural areas, the National Rural Crime Network is launching the biggest ever survey of rural policing and crime.

In the face of shrinking budgets, it is important for us to better understand your experiences of policing and crime in your area. Have you suffered financial loss, been concerned or worried about safety or feel the focus is

generally on urban areas? You don't need to tell us who you are, you can complete the survey anonymously.

If your answer is yes, then please complete our survey.

Our aim is to use the results of the survey to **improve awareness of crime in rural areas and encourage crime prevention, inform government policy and help ensure funding is not disproportionately lost from rural areas.** The results from the survey will inform the police and their partners in their work, helping to ensure the **right services and resources are available to rural communities.**

We can only do this with your help.

For the 10-15 minutes it will take, **your response will make a difference** to policing, crime and community safety in rural areas. If you want to, you can complete the survey anonymously.

To start the survey, click on the link below.

<http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/>

Kind Regards

Fiona

Fiona Witcher PCSO 6173

Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team

Peterchurch Police Station

Herefordshire

HR2 ORR

07779 141232

or

101 ext 4820

View our new Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police websites at: www.warwickshire.police.uk and www.westmercia.police.uk

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

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th June at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting saw the co-option of a new Parish Councillor for Much Birch, Mr Ben Roberts, and we welcome him to the Parish Council. The Parish Council heard a report from the new Ward Councillor, David Harlow, who is actively engaging with the Parish Council to work through issues. The Parish Council are continuing to lobby for improvements to roads and other matters that affect the Parish. Sometimes the agenda is for improvement is outside of their control but they continue to seek action on your behalf. There is still a vacancy for another parish councillor and anyone who is interested in finding out more, about becoming involved, is very welcome to contact the Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, or their local parish councillor (details below). The Meeting also had an open interactive session with parishioners and heard a report about local road and highways issues from the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward. There was also a reminder to send in your Questionnaire regarding the Tump Lane Play Space, if you had not done so already. Details are on the Parish Council Website (link below). The next meeting of the Parish Council will be an Ordinary Meeting and this will be held on **Thursday 9th July 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.

A reminder that:- **Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-**

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW,
e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk 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, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX,
e mail a.crum@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW
e mail tjsj@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

Cllr Ben Roberts Lynwood, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AR
b3nroberts@gmail.com Tel. 01981 540100

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