

King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

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

Evergreen Club

Once again, we were blessed with the most glorious weather for our boat trip on the Kennet & Avon canal. It was a wonderful way to spend the afternoon which included a most delicious tea.

On **TUESDAY 10TH JUNE** we are off to Mumbles. There are shops, galleries and potteries in the old streets which overlook Swansea Bay; there are cliffside walks, a small beach and a Victorian pier. The cost is £9.50 for members and £11.50 for guests.

The number to ring is **01981 540932**.

The pick-ups 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
- 9.45 Fontaine Court

Whist Drive

We are holding a Whist Drive at Little Birch Village hall on **TUESDAY 10TH JUNE**. 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.

A Historical Walk

Adrian Harvey will be leading a walk FOR Little Birch Parish on **WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE** which will start at Rowleston's barn (at the far south-east end of the parish) and take us up the side of Athelstan's Wood, along Ruff Lane to the church. From there we will proceed past Higgins Well, up Crow's Nest lane to Saddlebow View then up Chapel Pitch to the Village Hall. (There may be a short diversion on the last stretch.) This route is slightly less than 2½ miles long and follows closely the order of historical information given by Adrian in his chapter 8 in *Little Birch on Aconbury Hill*. Reading of this chapter beforehand would greatly benefit you!! (Copies of the book are still available)

DIARY DATES JUNE 2008

- 10TH JUNE - Evergreen Club
- 10TH JUNE – Whist Drive
- 11TH JUNE- New Mills Farm walk with Adrian Harvey
- 15TH JUNE- Open gardens at Uplands
- 17TH JUNE – W.I.
- 23RD JUNE – Village Market
- 26TH JUNE – Bingo
- 27TH JUNE – Halfway Community Theatre

ADVANCE NOTICES

4TH JULY- Summer Pudding evening

As this walk will probably take about 2½ hours we need to meet at Little Birch Village Hall at 5.45pm. We plan to transport everyone down to Rowleston's Barn by car (we would be grateful to a few drivers to help with this – we will make sure that you are run back to your car afterwards). We hope to start the walk by 6.15pm. Anyone choosing to walk to the start, please be there by 6.15pm. When we arrive back at the hall at about 8.45pm., there will be a very welcome supper with a drink awaiting us. For this there will be a charge of £5.00. If it is too wet to walk, at 7.30pm., Adrian will talk through the route with the aid of photos in the hall, after which we will enjoy supper as above.

Open garden at Uplands

Jackie and Mike Morley are opening their beautiful garden on **SUNDAY 15TH JUNE** from 2.00pm in aid of Little Birch Village Hall. Entry will be £2.50 (50p for children) and teas will be available. If wet, there will be a plant sale and teas in the village hall.

W.I.

Much Birch WI meet on the third Tuesday of the month in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm. On **TUESDAY 17TH JUNE** there will be a talk about the history of Patchwork and Quilting given by members Kitty Parkin and KathWatts, with examples of work and various books to encourage those who

may like to begin this most interesting craft.

Visitors are always welcome.

For further details please contact Barbara Wilson (President) on 01432 840559 or Kath Watts on 01981 540382.

Much Birch Village Market

The next Village Market is on **FRIDAY 23RD JUNE** in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm. and 4.30pm. It is wonderful to have so many producers coming along to our area. There will be locally reared beef, pork, lamb and free range chicken a selection of ready meals, sausages and pies, vegetables and ice-cream.

You will also find a good selection of herbaceous plants, locally produced crafts and there is a Fair Trade stand too.

Refreshments are home made and sold in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

Do please support this venture, to make it worthwhile for the producers to come to our village.

For further details please contact: Kath Watts on 01981 540382

Bingo

This will be at Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY 26TH JUNE**., eyes down at 8.00pm. There are good prizes, and refreshments will be available.

Halfway Community Theatre

On **FRIDAY 27TH JUNE** at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall, we proudly present our 'SUMMER SIZZLER'!!!

Join us for an evening of music and drama, including a welcome return of the folk group 'Compost Heap'.

Tickets are £6.00 from Jenny Wrigley on **01981 540617**.

(Strawberries and sparkling wine are included).

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 on **FRIDAY 4TH JULY** at 7.00pm. in Little Birch Village Hall. Cost £5.00 adults, £2.50 children.

Local News

FRANK SHORT recently went to HMS President RNVR Annual Inspection on the parade ground in the Tower of London where his grandson, SUB. LT. MATTHEW SHORT was in charge of a section of the cadets on parade. At the end of the parade, as a complete surprise, his grandson was presented with a cup in recognition of his helpful duties to his unit during the past year. Frank was, justifiably, extremely proud. Frank was later introduced to a number of the senior officers after the parade.

There was a big audience at Much Birch Community Hall when SHAUN and JOANNA BENNETT of Hallow End House gave us a fascinating illustrated lecture on the construction of their house and their experiences with the *Grand Design* team. This was followed by consumption of many delicious puddings. Just as the last Newsletter was ready to print, the death of MRS. ALICE MacLEOD of Tump Lane was announced. Her passing occurred just before her 80th birthday and she had suffered with arthritis for some 20 years and had been very poorly for some months. She was born in Burghill and married in that parish church and so it was fitting that her funeral service took place there. The family lived in Tump Lane for over 40 years and her son, Alan, and daughter Margaret, were born here. Like many other wives of her generation, she worked on local fruit farms during the summer months, particularly at Long Orchard Farm for the Acheson family. Over the last 2 years, her mobility was very limited but she was able to travel by mini-bus to Age Concern on most days for which she was extremely grateful. At her funeral service, the Rev. Jimmy Morrison

produced the Wedding Register for Burghill, showing the entry of her wedding day, which the family had not seen before. Mrs. Blythe did a collection from neighbours who knew Alice and from the £50 collected, £10 was spent on flowers and the remainder added to other donations for the Cats Protection League. Our sympathies go to Alan and Margaret and their families.

On 8th May, a Service to Celebrate the Life of the REV. PAUL HUGH WILSON took place at Staunton-on-Wye Church, which was full and overflowing. Paul was born in Southampton but his parents moved to London when he was quite young. He hated school and left as early as possible at the age of 14 and got a job at Elstree Film Studios. He started as the 'tea boy' and ink-well filler at 2s.6d. (12.5p) per week and, in time, was promoted to 'Clapper board' operator. There was another Paul working on the film sets and, as he was a senior worker, Paul had to use his other Christian name, Hugh, and Hugh Wilson still appears in the credits at the end of many of the older films. He was again promoted to the position of 'Lens puller' (focuser) and learned a good deal about camera work and was involved in many of the old black and white films, such as 'Champagne Charlie'. He was called up for service in WW2 and in 1942 was sent to the West Indies for a year, which he described as a most idyllic experience. On return to the UK, he was transferred to a 'photographic intelligence unit'.

He returned to Elstree Studios in 1948, where he thoroughly enjoyed making many well known films and meeting all the glamorous film stars of the day. His favourite film was *'Lavender Hill Mob'* and he gave an illustrated talk of his life in films to the 'Forum' in the village hall some 15 years ago. He married Anne and they had 2 sons, Anthony and John Paul.

In 1958, he joined the BBC and was in charge of the photography for many documentaries, such as *'Panorama'* and travelled widely overseas photographing among other programmes, Grand Prix motor races. In 1983, he transferred to BBC Wales and got to know and love the 'Marches' area.

Paul and Anne had always been involved in the Scouting Movement at all levels from Scoutmaster to Group Scoutmaster and Assistant Dist. Commissioner. It was therefore no surprise that, when they came to live in Lyston Lane, Orcop, they both helped the Scout and Cub troop based at the Memorial Hall, Kings Thorn. Paul started training for the ministry in 1980 and took early retirement from the BBC in 1983 when he became a Deacon in the

Church of England. He was ordained as a Priest in 1984. and assisted in due course the Revs. Peter Newby, Chris Hollowood and Alan Jevons in the work in these parishes. He proved to be a real 'people's Priest and set up the Pop-in Club and continued the work with the Scouts and Cubs and was presented with the 'Silver Acorn', one of the highest awards in the Scouting Movement.

In 1993, he retired and moved with Anne to their cottage at Staunton on Wye, where they were extremely happy and had excellent walks for the family dogs. He assisted as a retired priest in the Weobley group of parishes and was also well liked there. Sadly, Anne died in 1998 and despite being devastated and suffering ill-health himself, carried on with great fortitude. Then in 2004, his youngest son, John Paul, died which was another bitter blow. Paul himself had been up and down to Birmingham for heart treatment over the last 10 years but was always cheerful and optimistic. The presence of so many friends and acquaintances from a very wide area at his funeral service, reinforced the respect and love in which he was held. His body was laid to rest with that of Anne in the churchyard at Staunton on Wye. We send our deepest sympathies to Anthony and his family.

It is good to give a very warm welcome to MRS. BARBARA TONKIN who has recently moved into Willow Cottage, Upper Wrigglebrook and we hope she will be very happy in her new home.

SUE MASON would like to thank everyone who turned up to enjoy the 'Bluebell Drive' and Robot Milking System on the 27th. April and to those who helped behind the scenes, making scones and serving the cream teas. A total of £422 was raised and this was divided between the Church, the Village Hall, the Haven Breast Cancer Unit, the 'Horizons' young peoples group and the Air Ambulance. The thanks of the whole village is sincerely tendered to the Mason family for putting on this very worthwhile event.

School Caretaker

A reliable person is required as soon as possible to be responsible for security, routine maintenance, to undertake some cleaning duties and to oversee our cleaning.

The Job specification is as follows:-

5 hours per week security duties throughout the year.

11.5 hours per week term-time only.

Salary - £6,243 per annum

Much Birch C.E. Primary, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HL.

The closing date for applications is **FRIDAY 6TH JUNE**.

We know you've got talent

All of you hiding away out there, this is your opportunity! We are thinking of organising a talent show – all talents, all ages – sometime in the autumn. We are wondering if we could get together a variety show for everyone's enjoyment and would love to hear from you if you think you might like to take part. Don't be shy, put a note with name and contact number in the box at the village hall or ring Jackie on 541027.

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The May draw took place on Saturday, 10th May at Much Birch Hall at 7.00pm. The winners were:

1. No 47 - Mrs. Barbara Wilson - Little Dewchurch
2. No. 42 - Mr. & Mrs. M. Glover, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 13TH JUNE at 12noon in Much Birch

Community Hall

John Jones, *Chairman/Promoter*

Notice Board

Little Birch Village Hall Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for organising the smart new notice board for the village hall and also extend thanks to Mike Morley for fixing it to the front of the building.

Correspondence

Dangerous Driving

Both myself and my Family were travelling down Tump Lane, when we met a light brown Vauxhall Corsa which was travelling at approximately 60mph. going up Tump lane on the wrong side of the road. The Vauxhall was travelling so fast that my Wife, who was driving at the time, had to swerve to avoid what could have been a very serious head-on collision. By the way, we have a 16 month old child who was in the car at the time.

The vehicle was travelling so fast, and the driver showed absolutely no concern or respect whatsoever, and it is because of the aggravating factors of this event that I have decided to mention three numerals on the Vauxhall's number plate, which were JKE.

This driver clearly has no respect for anybody's life, least of all his/her own. In my opinion, persons like this shouldn't even be allowed on the road, as they seem to stick two fingers up to the local neighbourhood, and seem to be intent on becoming a killing machine.

While I understand we all have deadlines to meet in our busy lives, I think that it is about time we showed a little more respect by driving at realistic speeds. After all, what if a child had run out in the road as this vauxhall corsa was driving up Tump lane, which is often very narrow?

On this occasion, I have decided not to inform the police, but if I see driving like this again, particularly from this particular driver, I shall indeed inform them to protect everyone in the local neighbourhood.

Name and Address supplied

Blind Corners in The Birches

In addition to the above, two further nasty and potentially dangerous incidents have been reported to us of late. In the first a local man narrowly avoided being hit by a car going up the lane to A49 from Wrigglebrook which had passed him on a blind bend at a speed he estimated at 60mph. By the time he had avoided a collision the car had vanished in a cloud of dust and he was unable to get the number. The car was a small model coloured light blue/grey and the driver was a lone youngish male. The second incident was where a collision was narrowly avoided on a blind corner on a lane off Little Birch Road. Perhaps it is time to remind everybody of the necessity to approach the numerous blind corners and bends in our area with due care and consideration for others. The argument has been used in the past that it is not the locals who drive badly since they are aware of the problem, however one of the incidents above involved a local driver.

M.B.P.C

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of each month (excluding August & January) at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Local residents are very welcome to attend and air their views in the Open Discussion.

The Parish Councillors are:

John Jones - Chairman

Dave Davies - Vice Chairman

Glenn Simms, Menna Swift, Vivien Short and Alison Cook.

Report on MBPC meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April were approved and signed.

The Parish Clerk reported on the following:

SID- A meeting will be taking place with HFDC road safety officers and MS & Clerk on Tuesday 8th April to consider the proposed identified sites for the SID.

Lengthsman Work & administration
The claim for a Grant had been submitted

to HFDC. The lengthsman has carried out identified work since the previous meeting apart from weed killing along Tump Lane and some hedge cutting in Tump Lane. This work is to be carried out as soon as the weather permits

M.B. School Parking Problems - Clive Hall of HFDC Highways Dept would be contacting the Parish Council and school with regard to proposals on the parking issues in due course.

Litter at A49 - A letter had been sent to Mr Bobbin of HFDC requesting clearance of litter along the A49 and asking if it would be possible to extend the frequency of litter clearance from this location. A reply from Mr Bobbin has been received and he confirmed that litter clearance is due to be undertaken from Monday 17th March for six weeks. He also acknowledged the request for an increase in the frequency of litter clearance. However, due to the cost of cleaning trunk roads and health and safety measures, along with the traffic management that has to be in place, the limited budget would not allow for this.

Parish Lane - A report has been received from HFDC Public Rights-of-way officer, Rob Hemblade, on the condition of Parish Lane.

Footpaths Officer

It was agreed to advertise the vacancy for a parish footpaths officer and that posters would be put up on the Parish notice board, on to the Much Birch website and in The Kings Thorn & The Birches Newsletter. The closing date for applications is **MONDAY 23RD MAY**. Applications are to be sent to the Parish clerk.

Finance report.

The current bank balance was noted. Two cheques were written and signed.

Planning.

No planning applications for comment.

Planning Permissions

DCSW2008/0216/F **The Underhills, Holly Bush Lane, Much Birch** - Replacement of storm damaged dutch barn with new steel portal framed building
DCSW2008/0255/F **Rangers Lodge, Little Birch Road, Kings Thorn** - Alterations and extension to existing dwelling with ancillary works.

Planning Refusal

DCSW2008/0156/O **Rangers Lodge, Little Birch Road, Kings Thorn** - Erection of a detached dwelling with ancillary works.

Correspondence.

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

Date of Next meeting

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE at 7.30pm.

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

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.

L.B.P.C. Annual Meeting

No interests were declared.

Mr. J. Dillon was duly re-elected as chairman.

Minutes of the AM held on 16th May 2007 were read and signed as a true record.

Chairman's Annual Report - Mr. J. Dillon gave a summary of the Parish Council's activities for the past year.

Annual Financial Report - The Parish Council's books were available for inspection and the Clerk to complete the external audit paperwork.

Update on Village Hall - It was reported that the Village Hall has had a good year with some refurbishment completed. Even though the application to the National Lottery Community Fund was rejected, further funding continues to be sought after from Herefordshire Council and other organisations. Little Birch Parish Council nominated Sue Jones and Alison Clarke to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Any Other Business

A report was read by the Clerk on behalf of Councillor Richard Smith summarising his and Herefordshire Council's achievements.

To improve attendance in future Annual Meetings, the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk was to insert an advertisement in the local Newsletter publishing details of the Annual Meeting.

CSO Kevin Powell reported that there has only been one recorded incident in the Parish and that was the theft of tools which was reported last November.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

L.B.P.C. Meeting

No interests were declared.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March were read and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

The plaque to be placed at the base of the Holy Thorn has been purchased and shown to the Parish Council.

Mr. Morley reported that the constitution was nearing completion and would need agreement by Little Birch and Much Birch Parish Councils when the Communications Committee had finalised outstanding issues.

Village Hall - There is a vacancy for a Secretary on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Existing work still to be completed include the installation of the container and laying new flooring in the serving hatch area. Further grants are being sought to fund more refurbishment projects.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme - No further work has been completed by the Lengthsman. Contractor to start work shortly to clear School Lane, Chapel Pitch and Crows Nest Lane culverts. Three members of Little Birch Parish Council are to list urgent and routine jobs to be completed by the lengthsman.

Parish Lane - It was reported that Much Birch Parish Council is still waiting for further information from Herefordshire Council before proceeding with this issue.

Railings & posts at the bottom of Crow's Nest Lane - After discussions between Cllr. Richard Smith and the Highways Department, some of the railings have been moved and/or replaced with reflectors which has been seen as a slight improvement. Clerk to contact Herefordshire Council Highways department to enquire if this issue has been resolved as far as they are concerned.

The outcome may result in consultation with local parishioners.
Financial Report - 6 cheques written and income received for 1st precept payment was noted.

Correspondence - A detailed list of all correspondence was given to the Parish Council and noted. Clerk to investigate increase in HALC subscription and to invite Herefordshire Council representatives to next Parish Council meeting to discuss a current Housing Needs Survey.

Planning - Application received for **Rosebank, Much Birch**, for the demolition of existing store and replacement with store/workshop. All paperwork returned with no objections by the Parish Council.

Any Other Business

CSO K. Powell reported diesel thefts occurring in neighbouring Herefordshire parishes. Mr. B. Powell reported incidents of sheep worrying which was noted with West Mercia Police to get further details. Much Birch Parish Council has elected three members onto the Communications Committee. The website has proved successful with a high number of visitors. The Clerk showed the Parish Council the finished Notice Board to be erected onto the front of the Village Hall.

Date of Next Meeting - **WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY.**

Parish Clerk

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish. Contact details are: Liz Callwood - 540081 or lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk

Post Office Closures

Herefordshire faces a second wave of Post Office cuts. Twenty-five Post Offices have already closed in the county since 1999.

Loss of Post Office Card Account: A further cloud of uncertainty now hangs over the Post Office, over and above the Government's current closures programme. The future of Saturday deliveries is already in doubt. Loss of the Post Office Card Account would remove another vital local service for the elderly and the less well-off, and another vital source of revenue for Post Offices in Herefordshire.

One should note that in 1999 there were 18,374 Post Offices nationwide and in 2007 this had reduced by 4,000 to 14,219. Further cuts will bring the number down to an estimated 11,500, but it appears that in answer to a parliamentary question, Post Office Limited currently estimates that the minimum size of network necessary to meet the access criteria is around 7,500.

Neighbourhood Watch

Fuel Thefts - The rate of fuel thefts both from lorries parked in lay-bys on the main roads, and from domestic oil tanks. is not slowing down unfortunately. The latest report we have had is from a householder in Kings Thorn who has had about 800 litres taken over the past two weeks. We are also receiving reports of 'drive offs' from petrol stations in the area.

On 15th April two members of the public disturbed an offender stealing diesel from a goods vehicle parked in a lay-by near to Locks garage. We would like these witness's to contact us. They were driving a dark green Montego estate.

Two properties in Wormelow have had heating oil stolen during the month.

Under Lock & Key - On a more positive note, you may have already read in the Hereford Times or heard on the news that one of our most prolific 'cold callers' Brian Price, is now in prison, having been given a 9 month sentence by Hereford Magistrates earlier in the week. Price was very active on our area as well as all over Herefordshire, offering gardening services to mainly elderly householders and then charging excessive amounts for very simple tasks. This was as a result of a joint operation by Police and Trading Standards, and Price has also been given a 10 year ASBO preventing him from

any form of 'cold calling', or from asking anyone else to 'cold call' on his behalf.

Community Safety - I have been asked to pass on the following advice from Inspector Barnett, our Community Safety Inspector at Hereford Police Station

"Herefordshire is one of the safest places in the country to live and work - we need your help to keep it that way! As the summer approaches your local police would like to remind you of the temptation an open window or door presents to a passing burglar. Whilst we do not have many burglary offences at all, why make it easier for criminals? Make sure that when your property is unoccupied or you are out in the garden that no one is able to sneak into your house via a window or door you have left open or unlocked.

Taking this simple step can dramatically reduce the chances of you ever becoming a victim of burglary - and better still, it costs nothing!

If you want more free crime prevention advice then contact your Local Policing Team. You can also find out full details of West Mercia's Safe and Secure campaign at the force website at www.westmercia.police.uk"

If you suspect it, report it

In an emergency

If you think you have seen a person acting suspiciously, or if you see a vehicle, an unattended package or bag, which might be a threat, immediately move away and call 999.

Anti-terrorist hotline

If you think that you may have seen something suspicious or you are unsure about somebody's activities or behaviour, however insignificant it may seem at the time, call the Anti-Terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. Specialist officers who will analyse your information take calls in confidence. They'll decide if and how to follow it up. Your call could be vital to us however uncertain you may be about making it.

The terrorist threat is real and there is no room for complacency. We must all remain alert and aware of our surroundings at all times. If something strikes you as suspicious or out of place, trust your instincts and call the police.

Terrorists have to live somewhere. They store their equipment and materials somewhere. They need vehicles. They have people who help them - and these people might come and go at strange times of the day and night. They may make unusual financial transactions or use false documents to hide their real identities. They may be behaving differently to how you've known them to behave in the past.

If you suspect it, report it.

Van – Terrorists need transport. If you work in commercial vehicle hire or sales, has a sale or rental made you suspicious?

Passport – Terrorists use multiple identities. Do you know someone with documents in different names for no obvious reason?

Mobile phone – Terrorists need communication. Anonymous, pay-as-you-go and stolen mobiles are typical. Have you seen someone with large quantities of mobile phones? Has it made you suspicious?

Camera – Terrorists need information. Observation and surveillance help terrorists plan attacks. Have you seen anyone taking pictures of security arrangements?

Chemicals – Do you know someone buying large or unusual quantities of chemicals for no obvious reason?

Mask and goggles – Terrorists use protective equipment. Handling chemicals is dangerous. Maybe you've seen goggles or masks dumped somewhere.

Credit card – Terrorists need funding. Cheque and credit card fraud is ways terrorists generate cash. Have you seen any suspicious transactions?

Computer – Terrorists use computers. Do you know someone who visits terrorist-related websites?

Suitcase – Terrorists need to travel. Meetings, training and planning can take place anywhere. Do you know someone who travels but is vague about where they are going?

Padlock – Terrorists need storage. Lock-ups, garages and sheds can all be used by terrorists to store equipment. Are you suspicious of anyone renting a commercial property?

Theft of vehicles

Between 1.00am. and 8.45am. on 5th April a short wheel base blue Land Rover registered number ***435Y was stolen from a farm in Kingstone. Enquiries re this theft indicate that a number of persons were involved.

Between 5.00pm. on 18th April and 7.00am. on 20th April, 6 cars were stolen from a garage at Tram Inn, Allensmore. All the vehicles have now been recovered, but 5 of them are write-off's. The vehicles were as follows, a grey Vauxhall Corsa N304*** and a green Rover 75 W399***. Both these vehicles were found burnt out at the ponds at the rear of Arkstone Court, Kingstone. A Red Rover 45 CV03*** was found in a hedge on the B4348 near to Dunswater Farm. A silver Ford Fiesta S577*** was found with collision damage just off the B4348 onto Brampton Road. A silver Renault Clio VE55*** was found with collision damage between Clehonger and Kingstone near to Smallbrooke. Damage was also caused to temporary traffic lights at that location. A VW Golf was found abandoned at the bottom of the lane to Coldstone House. Enquiries to date have indicated that some of the vehicles were taken in the early morning of 20th April. This is an unusual offence for this area and it is clear from the areas the vehicles were abandoned that this is probably linked to local offenders, as the vehicle have been driven through surrounding villages. If you have any information about this offence, please contact the local policing team or phone crime stoppers. Crime stoppers will pay small rewards for information leading to convictions. On this occasion no one was apparently injured as a result of the reckless behaviour of the offenders.

Finally, can I remind you that the the next P.A.C.T. meeting in September will be in our area again, at Much Birch Village Hall. This is your opportunity to address representatives from Herefordshire Council and your Local Policing Teams about any issues that affect life in your community. We would welcome your views, positive or otherwise

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

Newsletter

It was nice to get one email as a result of the piece in last month's edition

It has been suggested that, with regard to the cost of production, we consider adding a "tear off slip" at the end of each monthly Newsletter inviting readers to make donations?

As to the Newsletter itself and its content, should we consider enclosing a short questionnaire asking readers to comment on the content by indicating what they like about it, what they don't like about it, what they would like to see and whether the coverage of regular items is sufficient, not enough, too long, too short, and so on? What do you think?

Please send suggestions via email or post to the addresses below.

Editor

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **JULY** 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

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18TH JUNE

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