

KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch & Much Birch – June 2009

Mid Summer Pudding Party

For all pudding lovers and especially for those who have little time to indulge their favourite delight, you are invited to attend the LBVH Mid Summer Pudding Party Evening to be held on **FRIDAY 5TH JUNE** at Little Birch Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Entrance: Adults £5, Children under 12 years - £3.50.

(Pudding contributions for this delicious event will be gratefully received!)

Whist Drive

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

Gardening Club

There will be 2 meetings in June. **TUESDAY 16TH JUNE**. Visit to gardens at Fawley Court. Meet at King's Thorn bus shelter 6.00pm. prompt.

WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE is our next meeting at L.B.Village Hall at 7.30pm. when Harold Salisbury will be giving a talk on '*Preparing Exhibits For The Annual Show*'.

W.I.

The next meeting of Much Birch WI takes place on **TUESDAY 16TH JUNE** in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Les Rogers whose subject is 'The National Trust and the Brockhampton (N. Herefordshire) Estate'.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome. For further details about Much

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE 2009

5TH JUNE – Pudding Party
9TH JUNE – Whist Drive
11TH JUNE – M.B.P.C. Meeting
16TH JUNE – Gardening Club Visit to Fawley Court
16TH JUNE – W.I. at Much Birch Community Centre
20TH JUNE – Violette Szabo Memorial Gathering
22ND JUNE – Riding for the Disabled Open Morning
24TH JUNE – Gardening Club
25TH JUNE – Bingo
26TH JUNE – M.B. Village Market

Birch WI please contact Kath Watts 01981 540382 or Jennifer Jones 01981 540698

Violette Szabo G.C.

Violette's 2009 Memorial gathering is to be on **SATURDAY 20TH JUNE** at 2.00pm. at her museum 'Cartref House' Wormelow. Anyone who would enjoy joining us would be most welcome. If anyone has a gazebo they could lend and erect it would be so wonderful, also garden chairs, or a little help to perfect the event.

So many of our visitors are very elderly and it is so very nice to be able to offer them a seat and a little shelter from the weather. Please contact Rosemary Rigby on 01981 540477.

Riding for the Disabled

We are holding an Open Morning on **MONDAY 22ND JUNE** from 10.00am. – 12 noon.

If you miss being with horses, want to try something new or have wondered what goes on at an RDA group, please come along and chat to staff, volunteers and riders. We are in need of volunteers to either lead or walk beside riders on

horses in lessons – a good way to have fun, keep fit and help provide pleasure and therapy for disabled children and young people. Experience with horses is not necessary as full training is given.

You will find us at Holme Lacy College on the B4399 opposite the Primary School. We are situated in the big blue shed at the bottom of the car park. We look forward to meeting you. Tel: 01432 870831.

Bingo

The next Bingo will be held be at 8.00pm **THURSDAY 25TH JUNE** at Little Birch Village Hall. There are special prizes and refreshments will be available.

MB Village Market

Do come to support the Much Birch Village Market which is on **FRIDAY 26TH JUNE** between 2.30pm. and 5.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall. Cut down on your 'air miles' by buying locally produced beef, ready meals, pies, pork, sausages, lamb, chicken, duck, cheese, preserves, bread and ice cream. A selection of local crafts is available and there is a Fair Trade stall. Home-made refreshments

are sold on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support.

Local News

New As the last Newsletter went to print, the sudden death of JOHN BERNARD WILLIS of Hollybush Lane was announced. The Service of Thanksgiving for his Life was held at Much Birch Church and was conducted by Rev. Prebendary Kay Garlick. John was born and grew up in Kent. After doing National Service he went to Reading University to study Physics and it was here that he met his wife to be, Barbara. He became an expert in the field of lasers and travelled to Germany, Japan and the U.S.A. to attend and lecture at many conferences. During this time, their family increased with the arrival of their 3 children, David, Trevor and Sally. John and Barbara always loved walking, the outdoors in general and gardening. When they retired to 'Leesfield' some 10 years ago, John set about doing some home improvements at which he was very adept. Together with Barbara, who was very skilled with plants and design, created a new garden, including a wildlife pool. In the greenhouse, John set up a computer controlled watering and ventilation system and so they were able to holiday, particularly in the Lake District, without having to worry too much about their greenhouse plants. Barbara was very keen on dressmaking and John fitted up a computer controlled sewing machine. John also served as treasurer to the Hardy Plant Society for a number of years. They were very proud of their families' academic successes and the company of their grandchildren. Sadly, Barbara died some 5 years ago, but John carried on quite determinedly although devastated by her passing. He spent more and more time on the computer and in his workshop. His death at the age of 77 years was completely unexpected. We send to all the family our sincere condolences. Donations in memory of John were

given to help the work of the MacMillan Nurses, Cancer research and to Much Birch Church.

The death of Miss ROSALIND TOWNSEND, in her 92nd year, has just been announced. Her parents farmed at King's Caple and Little Dewchurch before coming to New Mills Farm, right at the eastern border of Little Birch parish. Ivor and Fred were her older brothers and Bill, Geoff, Victor and Albert her younger brothers. She went to school at Little Dewchurch and at 14 years of age, worked for and lived in with a Mrs. Richards at 'Hawthorn Cottage on Barrack Hill (now lived in by the Sims family). She attended Sunday school and other services at the Gospel Hall on the Barracks with some of her brothers. She then went back to New Mills to help her mother in the large farmhouse where there was always a good deal of cleaning, washing and scrubbing to be done as well as poultry to look after. When her parents retired to Hoarwithy, Ros stayed on with Geoff. at New Mills to help run the house.

Later, when her mother needed help she moved to their house in Hoarwithy. After her parents died, Ros moved into 'Ashley', a bungalow in Hoarwithy, which was her home for many years, but when she felt no longer able to cope with the property, she moved into sheltered accommodation at Smallbrook Gardens in Ross. For the last 2 years, she has been well cared for at Brockhampton Nursing Home, where Geoff, Victor and Albert and their families were constant visitors. In one of their last visits, she asked the brothers if they had swept up the crumbs in the dairy. This was a reference to the occasions some 70 years ago when she chased them out of the dairy with a hard broom after they had sneaked in to where the cakes were kept and left crumbs on the floor while eating of the cakes. Her ashes will be scattered on her parents' grave at Hoarwithy Church and a Service of Thanksgiving for

her Life will be held at Henry Street Evangelical Chapel on 21st. May. We send to Geoff, Victor, Albert and their families our deepest sympathy. (A few days later, Victor will have celebrated his 86th. birthday and so congratulations are sent for that occasion.)

Rubbish Collection

Most people will have seen the mention in a recent 'Herefordshire Matters' of the new arrangements for recycling collections. The weekly plastic sack rubbish collection will continue, with the black bin bags being delivered with 6 months' worth at a time instead of being left lying around individually every week.

However, from November this year, a new kerbside recycling collection service will be launched with the aim of reaching as many properties as possible throughout the County. A wheeled bin will be delivered to each household, to take glass (but not sheet glass), cans, tins, paper, light cardboard and plastic bottles. There will be no need to separate these: they all go in together. The bins will be emptied once a fortnight and the collection days will be notified when the bins are delivered: on collection day, the wheeled bins will need to be left at the front boundary of the property.

The standard 'wheelie bin' has a 240 litre capacity but a smaller alternative will be available on request. If anyone cannot physically manage a wheelie bin, or needs an assisted collection, they must let the Council know. Requests for a smaller bin or for an assisted collection need to be made to 01432 260051, or online at www.herefordshire.gov.uk **THE CLOSING DATE IS MAY 31ST.**

Donation

Several generous donations have been made towards the costs of producing this Newsletter and these are gratefully acknowledged.

M.B.P.C

Report on Much Birch Parish Council meeting of Thursday 2nd April

Synopsis of Minutes

SIDs

Further SID's will be in operation at Much Birch School & Barrack Hill during May

Lengthsman work

Weed killing along pavement at Tump Lane and pavement area along Kings Thorn near Much Birch School to be finished off when weather permits.

Planning

No Planning information on applications, refusals or approvals received

Correspondence

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

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.

Date of next Meeting

THURSDAY 11TH JUNE at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Centre. Please note change of date for June's meeting due to the European Elections.

Thursday 2nd July 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.

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

Banishing Burglary

The 28-Day Pledges

Monday 27th April marked the start of West Mercia Constabulary's Safe and Secure campaign, which focuses on home security, particularly domestic

burglaries. These have been identified as a significant worry factor with many residents. But the reality paints quite a different, and very reassuring, picture. Det. Insp. Martyn Barnes of Herefordshire CID explains. "Domestic burglaries have more than halved in the past five years in Herefordshire and we now get less than one a day across the whole county. There were over 300 less dwelling burglaries in the Division last year than there were five years ago. That's 300 less victims."

"We believe it's far better to prevent burglaries happening in the first place. With over a quarter (26%) of all burglaries in Herefordshire last year committed because people didn't lock or close doors and windows, you can see how easily we could bring the numbers down. Other suggestions such as lighting, good quality locks, keeping a casual eye on your neighbour's property for unusual callers and the like all help too.

But these are things that you can do. DI Martyn Barnes explains what the police themselves will do to help reduce burglaries in the county and reduce the fear of burglary in the minds of some residents.

"We as a Division are pledging that, within the next 28 days, we will visit every domestic burglary victim who has suffered a break-in within the last two years to offer additional crime prevention advice. We want them to feel safe in their homes and not be subject to re-victimisation," he said.

"We also want the whole community of Herefordshire to feel safe from burglary and to that end we are also pledging that, within the next 28 days, we will conduct a free home security survey of every household who requests one in the next seven days if they think they are vulnerable to such a crime."

"To accomplish such a task will be a significant resourcing issue for us but we are confident that it will achieve results in the longer term by deterring criminals from committing such crimes and giving residents added reassurance that they do live in a very safe county," he said.

DI Barnes also has a personal message for criminals. "If you are thinking of committing a burglary in this county, be warned! We will use every legal means at our disposal to deter, disrupt and detect your activities. There will be no hiding place and we will not confine our investigations to Herefordshire. If you live outside the county, we will find

you and bring you to justice. Burglary in Herefordshire will not be tolerated." With house burglary being high on the Force's agenda for 2009-10, Herefordshire Division is clearly focussed on the measures to be taken. On top of what has already been detailed, Roads Policing and ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) teams and intercept vehicles are on the county's roads at all times looking for travelling criminals. Detectives are more than aware of the high profile placed on domestic burglary and have been given the brief to be robust and thorough in their investigations and to leave no stone unturned.

Under this new campaign, all victims of burglary and those assessed to be vulnerable will be given free SmartWater property marking kits so that the risk of burglary can be reduced.

DI Barnes concluded by saying, "This activity is not meant to be a campaign for a week but the standard that the county can expect for the future. We are totally committed to making Herefordshire as burglary-free and burglar-free as possible. With the help of all the communities in the county playing their part, we can really make that happen."

If you feel vulnerable to burglary of your home and would like a free crime prevention survey or would like a free Safe & Secure information pack, please contact the Public Service Desk at Hereford Police Station direct on 01432 347306 to arrange.

Neighbourhood Watch

Please note the new number for contacting West Mercia Police (if you can't get hold of us on our mobile phones) is

0300 333 3000

Crime Trends

Between 9/04/09 and 10/04/09 an Ifor Williams trailer was stolen from Hoarwithy.

Between 19/04/09 and 22/04/09 a trailer was stolen from Garway Village.

Between 19/04/09 and 22/04/09 400 roofing slates were stolen from premises at Llanwarne.

On 2nd May, a break in was discovered at St Mary's Church in Little Birch. A padlock was cut off the iron gates leading into the vestry, but nothing appears to have

been stolen although the suspects had a good rummage around.

Overnight 3rd/4th May a pedal cycle worth £2,500 was stolen from Broad Oak. The cycle is described as a Rocky Mountain Element 70, black in colour, and was made in Canada so there aren't many of this type around. The cycle had been chained to a car parked by a property, and for some reason, the suspects took the mudguards off and left them in the hedge.

On 5th May it was reported to us that a 'Hobby' caravan had been stolen from a business premises at Gooses Foot Industrial estate in Kingstone. It was blue and white, and had been taken around midnight.

A couple of suspicious vehicles to look out for – A blue Ford Fiesta, S 4**JFR was seen in Pontrilas on 29th April, the occupant, a male in his 40's with a welsh accent, wearing a florescent jacket, asked the householder for scrap.

On 5th May, at about 6.30pm, a dark green 4x4 was seen coming up the drive of a private property in Llanwarne, but turned around when the occupant approached it. The only part of the registration taken was 'GO'.

Between 8th and 11th May a snack bar was broken into and items were taken. The snack bar was situated just off the A49 at Llandinabo. If anyone remembers seeing anything suspicious in this area around this time please contact us as soon as possible.

In the early hours of the morning 12th May Mill Garage were victim to a burglary however the offenders only got away with a small amount of money. It is thought the offenders may have been disturbed.

On the 12th it is thought that offenders may have entered a garden in Kings Thorn and taken the lid off an oil tank, however it has not been established if any fuel was taken. Please keep a close eye on the levels of your heating oil and if you have any concerns please let us know.

Sometime in the last week an Ifor Williams trailer was taken from a unit at Rotherwas Industrial estate. Unfortunately trailers are not the easiest items to secure however due to the volume that has been taken please ensure you keep them as secure and out of sight as possible.

A property in St Weonards had their garage broken into over the weekend and items were stolen including Garden ornaments and garden machinery.

On the 13th it was realised that approx £2000 worth of Aluminium fencing was taken from a unit at Rotherwas. The price of scrap metal appears to be rising again so please be extra careful and report any suspicious incidents as soon as you can.

This month there have been no reports of Burglary of dwellings on Hereford Rural South. If you wish to see a fuller breakdown of crime in the area it is available on the West Mercia Police website. Look at crime mapper. Please note, the crime rate for the area is classified as average. This is based against the rest of West Mercia where crime is low, not the rest of the country.

Results

A 32yr old male was arrested on suspicion of assault at Holme Lacy. He was released without charge.

A 39yr old male was charged with theft from his employer after an incident where he took money for work carried out at St Weonards and kept it for him self.

A 39yr old male was arrested in Haywood Lane for possession of Heroin and Cocaine. He has been charged and bailed to court.

A green Kawasaki ZX636 motorcycle WX63BUP was stolen in the last two weeks in April from a property in Holme Lacy.

Sheep Worrying

In the last week two incidents of sheep worrying have been reported. The result of one of those incidents was the death of 8 lambs. This should serve as a reminder to keep dogs on a lead

whilst in fields of livestock. Farmers do have the right to shoot dogs worrying sheep and as an owner you could be liable to prosecution. In a recent case a dog owner was found guilty, his fines and costs came to nearly £400.

Pact meeting

The next partners and community together meeting is to be held on **TUESDAY 26TH MAY** at 7.00pm. at Much Birch Village Hall. If you have any issues you wish to put forward to the partners please come along.

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

Your Local Representatives

East - JOHN BULBECK 540178

Central - BOB PETERS 540670

West - BETTY PHILPOTT 540614

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **JULY** issue via email attachment in Word format to semathews@btinternet.com or by hand or post to Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD. by

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18TH JUNE

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Please mark your envelope
"Kings Thorn Newsletter"

P.T.O.