



# Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury June 2014. First published 1977

## Diary Dates

### May

28th Gardening Club LBVH  
31st Rhayader Male Voice  
Choir MBCH

### June

5th MB Parish Council MBCH  
7th Book Exchange LBVH  
10th Evergreen Club Outing  
10th Whist Drive LBVH  
17th Womens Institute MBCH  
19th AGM LBVH  
25th Gardening Club visit  
27th Village Market MBCH  
29th. Violet Szabo Memorial

### July

3-5th Summer show LBVH  
12th LB Church Fete Old Rectory  
15th Older Driver Day  
30th Gardening Club Visit

Come and join us for a

## Concert

to be held in

In Much Birch Church

on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at 7pm.

given by

**The Rhayader and District Male Voice Choir**

**with Soloist Jayne Swann**

and afterwards in

Much Birch Community Hall for an 'After Glow'

Tickets £8.50

To include light refreshments

Bar available

Ring 01981 540980 or 01989 563676 for Tickets

Proceeds for Much Birch Church

# Summer Show

Dare to be Entertained!

Laughter guaranteed!

**Little Birch Village Hall  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
July 3rd, 4th & 5th**

Come along and enjoy an evening of entertainment by all your usual star performers - comedy sketches, song and dance will take you from Victorian Melodrama around the world with 'Wish you were here' pictorially performed postcards from holiday destinations, not to mention finding out what happens to all the 'panto' cast when the show is over! Support your talented actors and musicians in a new venture and get mid-summer off to a great start.

Jenny Baldwin - Producer

**For tickets call 540068 or 541027 £10 each (for over 16s)**

**Light supper and introductory drink included.**



## **DOG FOULING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!!!**

The Newsletter has often included pleas for dog owners to be responsible. This month a resident of Tump lane submitted a very strongly worded note that will not be accepted as written. Suffice to say owners should not allow their dogs to foul private property and in all cases should-

## **SCOOP THAT POOP!!!!**

### **Local News**

Many congratulations are sent to **Jeanette and Michael Wardle** of Wormelow, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on April 26th. and we trust they will enjoy many more years of happiness together.

**Olivet Lewis** would like all her friends in the village to know that she has settled into life at Brockhampton Court. John and Betty Bryant are regular welcome visitors and Olivet would like to invite all her friends to visit. Tea and coffee always available and the gardens are especially beautiful and tranquil at this time of the year. Olivet would love to see you all.

Our sympathy and best wishes are offered to Mr. **Tony Rees** of Little Birch after an accidental fall which badly damaged his shoulder and broke his nose. We wish you a speedy recovery, Tony.

As reported last month, **Cliff Farmer** passed away a few days before his 94th. birthday which he was due to celebrate on the Isle of Skye with son, Bob, where he loved walking his dog in the wild landscape and the local seafood.

Cliff was born in Birmingham in 1920 but his mother sadly died in childbirth when he was 6 years old. This affected him deeply but made him more independent and resilient. In his teen's, his metal work teacher told him to stop aiming for perfection and to get projects finished more quickly, but the kitchen utensils he made over 80 years ago are still in daily use! This quest for perfection was an enduring trait.

He met Pat in a cycling club and would think nothing of cycling 200 miles over a week end trip to the West Country or Wales. Cliff won many medals in 25 and 50 mile cycling events and was also a competitive swimmer and boxer.

His first job was a telephone engineer with the Post Office and this proved to be extremely useful when he was a Prisoner of War.

Pat and Cliff married in 1940 and Deidre was born in 1941. Cliff joined the RAF and trained as a pilot,

with the rank of Flight Lieutenant. Pat and Cliff made certain that they would think of each other at 9pm. every night. He took part in many bombing raids over Germany but the most significant took place in Sep. 1943.

605 bombers of several types took off from Lakenheath in Suffolk to bomb the factories in Mannheim and this dealt a heavy blow to the German war effort.

Unfortunately, Cliff's Stirling bomber suffered a loss of power and with 2 of its 4 engines out of action over the Ardennes in France, the decision was made reluctantly to abort the mission. All seven crew members took to their parachutes but sadly 2 died and the other 5 were all separated. Cliff hid for a few days and then came across a local policeman in nearby Sorbon who put him in touch with the 'Sparnacienne', (members of the French Resistance in the area). Cliff had the utmost respect for all the members of the 'Resistance', who risked their lives on a daily basis in sheltering members of the Allied Forces.

A plan was prepared whereby Cliff would travel on foot from Sorbon in a S.Westerly direction to Epernay, some 80km (50miles) away. This was fraught with danger as there were enemy forces constantly patrolling all the roads so that walking through woods and fields was a nightmare. On reaching Epernay, he was put in touch with other Resistance members, particularly Fernande and Paul Servagnet, who sheltered him for several weeks. An escape route through SW France to Italy over the Pyrenees had been planned but was altered and it was thought safer to go by train to Spain. Unfortunately, there were guards on this train and Cliff was arrested and taken to a POW camp in Germany. This brief account does not do justice to the bravery and determination to escape, often with little food and a shortage of water.

He eventually was transferred to Stalag Luft 3 where his Post Office Telephone training was used to make makeshift radios using cocoa tins to make transformers and double filament headlamp bulbs pinched from German officers cars, to make diode valves. Food rations were scant and before the camp was liberated, there were forced marches in sub-zero temperatures and many died. Eventually, Cliff arrived at RAF Cosford in May 1945.

Fernande Servaget, mentioned above, was interned by the Germans in a concentration camp in Dec 1943 and was so emaciated when released that her own children did not recognise her. She

kept in touch with Cliff and Pat ever afterwards. Both Paul and Fernande were decorated for their work with the Resistance. Fernande was made a Commander of the Legion of Honor and recipient of the Croix de Guerre and the Resistance Medal. She died in 2007 and her obituary told of her intellect, moral conscience and courage but also her modesty.

After the war, Cliff worked at the Birmingham Accident hospital on research into 'burn injuries' and he became more aware than most of the possible grim consequences of nuclear war. He went on to work for Joseph Lucas before joining Henry Wiggin in Birmingham and in 1962 moved with Wiggins to Hereford, where he spent the rest of his career in senior management positions.

Meanwhile, Bill and Robert were born in due time in the mid 40's and the twins, John and David, arrived in 1952. Pat and Cliff decided to raise every penny they could to buy derelict cottages in Taliesin, mid Wales, as a holiday home and some sort of rural refuge in the event of a nuclear war. Making the cottages habitable led Cliff to develop a range of skills and he became very competent in all practical work.

The cottage proved invaluable for holidays and also for the twins, who had developed severe autism because it gave them more freedom and they could have their tantrums and worse with relatively less stress on those around them.

In 1984, David Enoch encouraged many in the community to form a gardening club and Cliff served as Hon Sec. for several years. The club celebrates its 30th birthday this year. Cliff also gave a fascinating talk to the Forum about his wartime experiences.

In 2000, Cliff and Pat celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with family and friends. Sadly, one of the twins, John, passed away in 1998 at Castle Farm, Bartestree where the twins were very well looked after.

Pat became ill in 2006 and in her final frail 18 months, Cliff looked after her at home, sometimes staying at her bedside day and night for weeks at a time, utterly sleep deprived, yet tending to all her needs. She passed away in 2007 at the age of 89 years.

Cliff was not only practical but had a good brain, an analytical mind and very strong views. He loved to debate and at the Probus Club in Hereford was known as 'the sage'.

In the 1970's, he developed an interest in

electronics and built Hi-fi music centres for each of the children and these are still going strong.

He had many interests including car maintenance, gardening, sailing and gliding at Shobdon until his mid-eighties.

He kept up with new technologies with music on his laptop, MP3 player and loved talking with those of his extended family who were sufficiently 'techy' on 'Skype'.

He continued to drive to Castle Farm to see David for weekend picnics even into his 90's and every Thursday night, when David came home, Cliff would prepare elaborate meals for David and his carer. David enjoyed several pursuits and one which made Cliff immensely proud was a painting of a bomber plane. He also looked forward to weekly visits to Riding for the Disabled at Holme Lacy. David died in 2011.

In 2010, the citizens of Sorbon in the Ardennes held a civic reception at which Cliff was the Guest of Honour. Deidre, Bill and Bob accompanied Cliff on this trip and were treated as honoured guests. Cliff visited the site where his Stirling bomber came down and also laid flowers on the well kept grave of the two crew who lost their lives.

It was a remarkable reunion and wonderful coloured brochures were printed to mark the occasion.

Cliff was always at his best in a crisis and always cooked Christmas Dinner for the family. Last Christmas at Bob's new home on the Isle of Skye when hurricane winds were forecast and a high chance of power cuts, there was a glint of excitement in his eyes. The power duly went off but they managed to slowly cook the meal on the log burner and Cliff pronounced it wonderful as they ate by the light of headtorches.

Cliff wanted to finish his days living in his own house and Jackie Harris looked after him and helped make this possible. Cliff really enjoyed cakes and several of the neighbours kept him well supplied. The family would like to give special thanks to Jackie and to Dr. Mike Davies and the staff at Much Birch surgery.

Cliff died on 14th. April and Bob was with him in the final few days. A Service to Celebrate his Life took place at Little Birch Church on 1st. May, conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson. The Church was full to hear tributes from sons, Bob and Bill with other members of the family giving the readings.

Cliff was buried with Pat in the churchyard. So we

say farewell and salute a very brave Man!  
We also send our condolences to **Helen Fox** and her family following the recent death of her father.

### **King's Thorn and Little Birch gardening Club**

**June 25th** Evening trip to The Bell at Skenfrith.

Candy, the gardener, will show us around the garden where all of the produce is grown for the restaurant. Meet at King's Thorn bus shelter for prompt start at 6.30pm. Cost will be £5 to include refreshments.

**July 30th** Evening visit to Westonbury Water Mill, Pembridge. Richard Pim is a hydrologist and has a real passion for water features. He has made quite a few changes since our last visit including a water powered Cuckoo Clock - it may be the only time you hear one this year! Meet at King's Thorn Bus Shelter at 6.15pm. Cost £4.

**Please make a note of our Annual Open Show on Sat. 6th. September.**

### **Little Birch Village Hall Committee**

#### **Community Book Exchange/Lending Library**

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on Saturday 7 June at Little Birch Village Hall. All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable monthly 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 and coffee will be provided and we look forward to meeting up with regular and new visitors to the Book exchange. There is a charge of £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire of hall and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you on 7 June 2014.

#### **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 10 June at Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30.p.m. The entrance fee is £2.00. We are always on the 'look out' for new members including those who are new to Whist and others who may not have played for some time. A warm welcome, good company and enjoyment of an evening of Whist may be just what you need! Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The LBVH committee are keen to encourage and welcome members of the community to attend

our 2014 AGM. We are always on the lookout for fresh and new ideas for hall community activities so if you are new to the area or a long-time resident with a little time to give (you do not necessarily have to attend the monthly meeting of the committee!) then please join us at 7.30pm on the 19th June for our AGM and refreshments.

### **St Michaels Hospice Fundraising Events Midsummer Light**

This summer, there will be another opportunity to remember loved ones at Midsummer Lights, a special service being held by the beautiful lake at Lyde Arundel, on Friday 20th June at 7.00pm. There will be reflective music, a chance to scatter rose petals on the lake and time to remember loved ones in a very individual setting. For more details, please contact Rev David Vonberg or Rev Jill Groves at St Michael's Hospice on 01432 851000.

### **Holding a St Michael's Hospice Big Tea party is as easy as one, two tea!**

Pick a day this July, buy or bake some cakes and pop the kettle on. Then ask friends, family, neighbours, colleagues or customers to join you for a Hospice fundraising party.

Every penny raised from a Big Tea party will go straight to caring for the thousands of people in Herefordshire and the surrounding counties who benefit from St Michael's Hospice services.

Last year, Big Tea parties raised over £8,000, which was enough to fund meals in our In-Patient Unit for three months. This year we're hoping to raise even more.

You can help your Hospice by holding a Big Tea party anywhere: at home, work or school, in the garden, village hall or park. Yours could be a small affair with a few close friends, or a big event open to all. The choice is yours!

Choose any date in July to suit you. You may want a morning 'Knit & Natter', a vintage Big Tea, a traditional English tea party or serve a cream tea with sandwiches and cakes and treat your guests to this great British tradition.

If you would like to find out more about holding your own Big Tea event, please call the Events Team at St Michael's Hospice on 01432 851000.

Chris Smart Marketing and Communications Manager, St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree Hereford HR1 4HA 01432 851000

### **Little Dewchurch over 60's**

The club is looking for new members. It meets in

the village hall every first and third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm. There are speakers, outings, pub lunches and coffee mornings.

For more information call Mrs Pat Seaborne on 01432 840651

### **Violet Szabo G.C.**

Her film 'Carve her Name with Pride' is to be shown in Much Birch Hall at 5.15pm on Sunday, 29th. June 2014. Tickets are £10 each. Please contact Rosemary E. Rigby on 01981 540477 or send a stamped addressed envelope.

Virginia McKenna, the star of the film, has very kindly accepted to introduce it. This should be wonderful! The afternoon is to start at 2pm. at the Museum. The Golden Valley Lady Singers are to be with us with songs from the First World War - this being the 100th. Anniversary. I particularly wanted to recognise the great sacrifice made by so many, that we might live in peace. At 4pm, A 25PDR Field Artillery Gun will be fired DV on the Rosemary Rigby Millenium Green. My father, Frederick John Rigby, fought with the Royal Artillery on the very large guns, 1917 - 1918. The Standard Bearers are to leave Park Hall at 1.30pm to march to Violette's Museum.

Please come and join the celebration of Violette's fourteenth Memorial Gathering!

Rosemary E. Rigby MBE Owner and  
Founder of the Museum

### **The Evergreen Club**

On Tuesday, 10 June, we are going to the outskirts of Birmingham. In the morning we visit the 14th century Selly Manor at Bourneville. After finding lunch at Harborne we go to Winterbourne House and Gardens where there is a tea room. The cost - including morning coffee and biscuits and all entrance fees, is £17 for members (£19 for visitors)

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

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45 am
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	9.35

### **Older Driver Day**

Institute of Advanced Motorists Herefordshire are bringing their Older Driver Day to the Hereford

area on Tuesday 15 July at Much Birch, aimed at restoring older drivers' confidence.

Older people in rural counties like Herefordshire tend to rely more on their car for the basics of living - visiting family and friends as well as shopping. It is often the only way they are able to take advantage of Herefordshire's many leisure activities, but ageing can also cause changes in ability to enjoy driving, such as difficulty negotiating roundabouts, junctions and manoeuvring.

Tina Lawrence, an expert from Southside Driving, will lead the day and covering a wide range of topics – such as hazard awareness, speed, observation and how to stay safe on the road. Tina said “Older drivers need their confidence reassured - which is the very aim of this course”. There is always plenty of opportunity throughout the day to ask questions and seek advice.”

“I learnt a great deal and it was all great fun” was how Shirley Cambell summed the day.

Most people take advantage of a short assessed drive, in their own car, by a qualified Advanced Driving Observer and are given friendly help and advice on their performance. David Williams, chairman of H.A.M. sums up the need for Refresher Days for Older Drivers by saying “Driving on today's roads should be every bit as enjoyable for the older driver as for anyone else. It's about learning the skill of being in the right position, at the correct speed and choosing the appropriate gear.”

Cost is £15 but hurry, places are limited. Contact Mary Bevan on 01874 712267 before 8 July 2014. marybevan@dsl.pipex.com Institute of Advanced Motorists - Herefordshire is the safe driving charity affiliated to IAM and runs courses at Much Birch throughout the year for drivers of all ages, who wish to improve their skills and safety on the road.

### **Herefordshire's River Trade**

Heather Hurley gave a well illustrated and clearly presented talk to about 40 people who were most interested in what she had to say and were impressed about the amount of research she must have done. She told us of the barges used, their names, owners and the types of cargoes they carried. The barges were generally pulled by a team of men and a sail was used if the wind was helpful. Barges were built at 45 sites on the Wye from Glasbury to Symonds Yat. Owners were often people involved in a particular trade such as

Pulling who transported wine up from Bristol to Hereford. Other cargoes upstream included coal, iron, bricks, rags (for paper). Cargoes down included cereals, seeds, bark, poles, lime, cheese, beer, cider and flax. Every Wyeseid village had wharves, Wilton and Hoarwithy were very busy. Lime and coal were transferred to smaller barges at Mordiford for transport up the Lugg to Leominster (Eaton Hall). River trade took place between about 1700 until 1865. In 1700 Hereford was beginning to expand with more demand for goods but by 1865 tramways were already taking the coal trade as was the canal and, of course, finally the railways. River trade ceased almost overnight.

Barges were very similar in design to the Wye Trow, made for the Diamond Jubilee and now moored by the Bishop's Palace.

### **Little Birch Parish Council**

Little Birch Parish Council held their Annual Parish meeting on Monday 19th May in Little Birch Village Hall. The meeting was attended by four out of the five Parish Councillors and three members of the public.

Cllr Mike Morley was re-elected as the Chairman, and Cllr Alison Clarke was re-elected as the Vice Chair.

The Chairman gave an overview of the work of the Parish Council for the previous year, and thanked the Councillors for their time and efforts over the last 12 months. The Footpath officer remains Ms Sandra Cameron, and her work was appreciated by the Chair. He welcomed Cllr Jon Norris as the new Ward Councillor in 2013, and thanked the Clerk for her endeavours.

Following the Annual Meeting, the ordinary Parish Council Meeting was held, here concerns were raised by a parishioner about maintenance of the Parish Field. The Parish Council moved to add this to the Annual Meeting agenda each year to ensure that its upkeep was supervised for the coming years.

The idea of Little Birch undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was discussed again, and following the discussion, a vote was taken as to whether or not to take this further, with three Councillors against and one **for the progression** of a NP, the Parish Council decided that at this time they would not take this any further.

The Chair explained that a number of people had had problems downloading the Newsletter from the

web site, so the next one will be sent out by e mail to ensure that the Parishioners can continue to enjoy reading it. The Newsletter committee are always on the look out for (younger) volunteers to help and subsequently take charge of production of The Newsletter – interested? Then please let them know.

The next meeting is on Wednesday July 9th at 7.30 in the Village Hall, and all parishioners are warmly welcomed.

Sophie Glover –Little Birch Parish Council Clerk, [littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.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](mailto:muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

PARISH MEETING – at the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Meetings held on the 8th May at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Parish Council elected officers, including Chair, Vice Chair and Footpath Officer for the following year and discussed various issues, including the possibility of planting daffodils in the parish. There were two planning applications considered and the Parish Council's comments to these are reproduced here: Firstly regarding Planning Application P140593/O Land at Barrack Hill: "The Parish Council object to the application on the grounds of drainage, loss of natural habitat, loss of green field land and the loss of the natural boundary between Lower and Upper Barrack Hill. This is long established agricultural land. The development is not in keeping with the surrounding area and tends towards an overbearing nature. Not in line with criteria outlined by Government on "infill" sites. Secondly on Planning Application P140554/O for the Mushroom Farm: " Whilst the Council would like to encourage development of the site, there are concerns as to access to and from the A49 given that the developer does not own the land on either side of the access/exit point. The Council are minded to object to the application on the grounds of unsafe access and egress from the proposed site." The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 5th June 2014 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.

**Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-**

**Cllr Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage,  
Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2  
8AW, e mail [thecoops@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecoops@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](mailto:turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com) and  
Tel. 01981 540090

**Cllr Andrew Crum** Anfield House, Barrack Hill,  
Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail  
[a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com)  
Tel. 01981 540002

**Cllr Jon Norris** Whitewells, Laskett Lane,  
Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HZ, e mail  
[jon@jonnorris.co.uk](mailto:jon@jonnorris.co.uk) Tel. 07944 301250

**Cllr Keith James** The Slinget, Tump Lane, Much  
Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HP, e mail  
[keithjamesphotos@btinternet.com](mailto:keithjamesphotos@btinternet.com) Tel 01981  
540171

**Cllr Tim Jones** The Wriggle, Wrigglebrook,  
Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail  
[tjsj@me.com](mailto:tjsj@me.com) Tel. 01981 540242

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](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be on  
Thursday 5th June 2014 at 7.30pm - at The Much  
Birch Community Hall. Please see notice boards  
and website for agendas. As is always the case,  
the public and press are more than welcome to  
attend.

### **Much Birch Community Hall Goes Solar**

The Management Committee are pleased to  
announce that Solar panels have been installed on  
the roof of the Community Hall to capture the sun  
rays which provide direct current (DC) electricity  
which goes through a process to convert it to  
alternating current(AC) electricity so that it can be  
utilised to provide power to the hall. Any excess  
electricity which is generated is fed into the  
National Grid with every unit attracting a payment  
known as the Export Tariff.

It has been determined that savings will be made  
on electricity bills by generating our own energy,  
resulting in purchasing less from our energy  
suppliers. In addition for each unit of electricity  
generated a payment will be made by the energy  
supplier. This is known as the Generation Tariff  
which is guaranteed for 20 years by Government

legislation.

The installation, which is a long term investment,  
was carried out by Graham Dean of Dean&Sun, a  
local Electrical Contractor, who gave us valuable  
advice and direction. The project provides benefits  
not only in monetary terms but also in reduction of  
the use of fossil fuels and the subsequent carbon  
footprint.

### ***Much Birch WI***

Much Birch WI holds meetings on the third  
Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in Much Birch  
Community Hall. The June meeting, on 17th, is  
the Open Meeting, to which husbands, partners  
and friends are particularly welcome. The subject  
will be .... 'How old did you say you were?' What  
an interesting subject!!

July will see Nadine Carr speaking about 'Votes for  
Women' while in August we welcome Rosemary  
Prosser, whose subject will be 'Hot Wheels, Cold  
Meals'.

We had another entertaining evening in April when  
Mrs Janet Wall came to talk to us about 'Cooking  
in Private Service'. Our speakers are again  
proving to be very diverse this year; you really  
should come and join us! All would be most  
welcome.

### **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 June market is on 27th.

Stalls will include;

The **Squeaky Pig**, award winning suppliers of  
locally reared rare breed pork, sausage, including  
Gluten free (to order) and bacon. **Moor Meals**,  
award winning, local suppliers of Dexter beef,  
ready meals and pies. **Llandinabo Farm Shop**,  
**Castle Cheese**, and **Mr. G's** chutney and  
preserves.

There is a Fair Trade stand and craft stands.

Refreshments and 'take home cakes', the  
proceeds of which go to MacMillan Cancer  
Support, are supplied by Chris and Peter.

Please support our producers who bring local food  
and crafts almost 'to our door'.

(PS. It would appear that, nationally, we are being  
encouraged to 'Buy British'.

Even better, 'Buy Local' and help the Herefordshire  
economy.)

If you would like to have a stall, or to find out more

about the market, please contact Mark on 01432 278026

## **Police Briefing**

### **Callow**

A quad bike was stolen from a property on Haywood Lane. This happened between the 22:00 on 27th and the 14:00 on the 28th of April. The quad bike was green Kawasaki bike and is marked with smartwater.

### **Hoarwithy**

On the 30th of April offenders were disturbed after breaking into a caravan in the Hoarwithy area. A fireplace and chimney were stolen. A small hatchback type vehicle was seen leaving shortly after from a nearby country lane.

### **Rotherwas**

A metal gate was stolen from a field alongside the B4399 at Rotherwas industrial estate. This happened between 18:30 on the 2nd of May and 08:20 on the 3rd of May.

Sometime between the 3rd and 6th of May. Two lorries had approx 400 litres of diesel stolen. The lorries were inside a compound in Reynards Close, Rotherwas Industrial Estate.

### **Much Birch**

A suspicious incident occurred sometime between 12:20 and 21:30 on the 4th of May at a property in the Much Birch area. It is possible that someone has tried to enter a premises by climbing up a drain pipe at the side of a building. Nothing appeared to have been disturbed inside so it is possible the offender was unsuccessful.

### **Positive Policing**

A vehicle was seized on Belmont Rd, the driver did not have the correct license and also no insurance.

PCSO 6993 Kevin Powell

Hereford Southside and Rural Safer

Neighbourhood Team

South Wye Police Station

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

## **Another Scam Warning (Operation Ardent)**

Elderly residents are being warned about a phone fraud where victims are being duped out of cash by people posing as police.

West Mercia and Warwickshire Police have recorded 70 of these offences across Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire since March this year with unsuspecting victims falling for the scam.

The offenders are targeting older people across both Forces, as part of a national scam which is commonly known as a 'courier fraud'.

In many cases a person claiming to be a police officer will contact an elderly or vulnerable victim by telephone and inform them that their bank card has been used fraudulently.

The victim will then be tricked into thinking they are either calling or being put through to their bank, but in fact they are still speaking to the fraudsters.

The victim will then disclose banking information and will be instructed to either place their bank cards in an envelope for a courier to collect or attend the local branch of their bank to withdraw a sum of money and pass it to a courier sent by fraudsters. Sometimes the fraudsters use legitimate Taxi companies to make the pick up.

Often elderly victims are unwittingly defrauded of their entire life savings, being left distraught and traumatised in many cases.

Over the last couple of months, the number of offences has escalated, with West Mercia and Warwickshire Police receiving numerous reports from victims across both Force areas.

Detectives are working with local banks/buildings societies and taxi firms as part of the investigation into the fraud and are urging anyone else who may have been a victim to come forward.

They are also repeating warnings to the public, particularly older residents, not to go along with the scam and to report any attempts to police.

**This is a national problem which has reached West Mercia & Warwickshire policing areas.**

DCI Sean Paley said, "This is a heartless and callous fraud with the offenders targeting elderly and vulnerable people who are trusting and willing to help who they think are bona fide police officers".

"We are urging the public, particularly older people, to be aware of this fraud and not to go along with it. Genuine police would not phone members of the public in this way and certainly would never ask you for your bank details or ask you to send money.

"Because of the nature of the fraud and the vulnerable victims involved it is believed this offence is currently under-reported, therefore we would urge the public to come forward and tell us if they have been contacted by these people.

"We appeal to members of the public, banks and taxi drivers to be on their guard and report any suspicious activity of this nature to the police

immediately.”

If you receive a phone call of this nature, police advise you to:

- **Do not give out any information and end the phone call immediately. Wait at least five minutes to clear the line from the scammer before making any other calls, or use another phone. Make sure you have a dialing tone.**

- **Report the offence as soon as possible to police by telephoning 101.**

**Please remember:**

- **Your bank will never attend your home.**

- **Your bank and the police will never collect your bank card or cash**

- **Your bank and the police will never ask for your PIN.**

**Anyone with any information about this fraud can contact police on 101, quoting Operation Ardent.**

### **Dhamma Dipa Vipassana Meditation Centre**

#### **OPEN DAY**

**Saturday 5th July (2-6pm). All welcome, admission free**

This July, Dhamma Dipa Vipassana Meditation Centre will once again open its doors to the public. It has been three years since the centre last held an open day. This year, for the first time, visitors will have the opportunity to try a technique of meditation called “Anapana” for themselves at taster sessions during the event

The afternoon will include: guided tours of the centre, introductory talks and films about Vipassana Meditation, meditation ‘taster’ sessions, woodland walks and cream teas. Admission is free and all are welcome. Dhamma Dipa, Pencoyd, St Owens Cross, Hereford HR2 8NG For info 01989 730234 / [www.dipa.dhamma.org](http://www.dipa.dhamma.org)

### **WRAPT FILMS Present**

#### **HERE & NOW**

**In cinemas 4 July 2014 Cert: 12A**

Directed by (Kingsthorpe resident) Lisle Turner

Starring: Andy Rush, Lauren Johns, Susan Lynch, William Nadyam and Claire Coaché (Kingsthorpe resident) Running Time: 84 min

Inner-city girl GRACE doesn't want to spend a week in the country helping her parents save their marriage. Country boy SAY finds Grace both obnoxious and attractive. Amongst the scenic grandeur of the dying days of summer the pair search for distraction and, against all odds, find

each other. Filmed entirely on location in Herefordshire and Monmouthshire by local director. Screening at and The Savoy, Monmouth on Friday 4th July plus Q&A with director runs until 10th July & at The Courtyard, Hereford on Sunday 6th July plus Q&A with the director, then runs 14,15,16,17 July.

[www.hereandnowfilm.co.uk](http://www.hereandnowfilm.co.uk)

### **The Rifles, Care for Casualties Charity Evening.**

( in Memory of KURT ETHERIDGE,  
late of Much Dewchurch)

Sat. 7th. JUNE 2014 6pm till Late.

to be held at the Three Counties Hotel, Hereford.

#### **Black Tie Event**

Hot buffet meal. Auction by Iestyn Thomas  
( Ex- Professional Welsh Rugby Player)  
Raffle, Plus Disco.

**Entrance by ticket only, £20 per person**

Tickets can be purchased from

Mr. Mark or Mrs. Debbie Etheridge- Barnes,  
36, Church View, Much Dewchurch, Hereford.  
Tel. 01981 540298 (Charity No. 119061)  
ch View, Much Dewchurch, Hereford.  
Tel. 01981 540298 (Charity No. 119061)

### **Longtown Castle**

(Submitted by John Kinross)

Longtown has a small castle, in the care of English Heritage, which today consists of a three storey tower built about 1214 on top of a motte, entered by a wooden stair at the 1st. floor level. The spiral staircase led up to the top where there was a garderobe and a battlement walkway for sentries to keep a lookout.

The bailey was large and went over to the other side of the main road.

At one time there would have been gates allowing the road to pass through the castle.

The castle may have been built by William FitzOsborne but soon passed to the De Lacy family. Walter de Lacy was a supporter of King Henry 111 and his wife, Margaret founded the Aconbury Nunnery. Walter's younger granddaughter married John de Verdun, who died on the Crusades. His son, Theobald, inherited Longtown and his son, governor of Ireland, married a Mortimer, Longtown passing to Bartholomew de Burghersh, a supporter of Edward 111. His son became a Knight of the Garter and fought at Crecy and Poitiers. Through

marriage Longtown passed to the Despencers - one of them lies in Tewksbury Abbey- who were invariably on the losing side in the Wars of the Roses. Later, it passed to the Nevilles of Abergavenny.

There is no record of the castle being involved in the Civil War, no doubt it was too ruinous. However, Alfred Watkins writes that the embankment near the keep, was the scene of a gibbet where William Jones, who killed his wife by arsenic poisoning in 1790 and was executed at Hereford with his girlfriend, Susannah Rugg, was strung up on the gibbet at Longtown "to be near to where the deed was committed".

**And Finally**

**(Submitted by a Resident)**

I had a problem yesterday with my computer, so I called Eric, the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control, and asked him to come over. Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, 'So, what was wrong?

He replied, 'It was an ID ten T error.'

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An, ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.

'Eric grinned...'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before? 'No,' I replied.

'Write it down,' he said, 'and I think you'll figure it out.'

**So I wrote down: ID10T. I used to like Eric.**

**July Newsletter**

Please send copy for the July Newsletter to birchesnews@gmail.com or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close by 18th. June

**Church Services in June**

<b>1st June</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Little Birch</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>8th June</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Much Birch</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Little Birch</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>15th June</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Wormelow</b>	<b>Hundred Benefice</b>
<b>Trinity Sun</b>			<b>Service at Much Dewchurch.</b>
<b>22nd June</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Much Birch</b>	<b>Matins</b>
	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Little Birch</b>	<b>Picnic Service</b>
			<b>Venue to be announced.</b>
<b>29th June</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Archenfield Group</b>	<b>Service at Llanwarne</b>
			<b>Open Air.</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Fawley Chapel</b>	<b>BCP Communion</b>