



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

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

June 2015. First published 1977.

## Community Shop update

Whilst the process may seem frustratingly slow, we have to put the business and legal structures in place first to allow us to make the correct decision about how and where we situate the Community Shop. We are currently being mentored by Herefordshire Councils Community Enterprise team, who oversee all the community shops in Herefordshire. We have set a time scale of three weeks and will update you as soon as we make our decision.

You can e-mail us on  
[Communityshopinwormelow@gmail.com](mailto:Communityshopinwormelow@gmail.com)

**Tessa Bokole**

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Following the meeting of the committee on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Chairman Valerie Harvey makes this further comment regarding the shop proposal...

*" The HR2 steering committee are actively working on finalising a site for the Shop/cafe and post office. We are hoping to have a concrete proposal to present at a public meeting by Mid June."*

## Pub Night - Thank you

Our recent pub night was extremely well attended and a great time was had by all. The money raised will go towards the defibrillator that we are planning to purchase for the benefit of the community. Thank you to everyone who came, for the donations that were received and particularly to the person who left a generous donation in the hall post box.

We will be holding another pub night in September.

## Church Services in June 2015



- |            |  |                  |
|------------|--|------------------|
| June 7th.  | LBirch 11am  | Holy Communion   |
| June 14th. | MBirch 9.15am  | Family Communion |
|            | LBirch 11am  | Morning Worship  |
| June 21st. | Benefice Service at the<br>Old Church Llanwarne 10.30am. |                  |
| June 28th. | MBirch 9.15am  | Matins           |
|            | LBirch 11am  | Family Worship   |

## Diary Dates

### May

27th Gardening Club LBVH

### June

- 4th Parish Council MBCH
- 6th Book Exchange LBVH
- 9th Whist Drive LBVH
- 9th Evergreen Club Trip
- 13th Monmouth MV Choir MBCH
- 14th 101 Club MBCH
- 16th LBVH AGM
- 16th WI Meeting MBCH
- 20th Halfway Theatre Company
- 24th Gardening Club Visit
- 26th Village Market MBCH
- 28th Violette Szabo's Special Day

### July

- 9th Much Birch Parish Council MBCH
- 11th Little Birch Church Fete
- 21st WI Meeting MBCH
- 24th Village Market MBCH

Please send copy for the July Newsletter to [birches@gmail.com](mailto:birches@gmail.com) or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close  
—by 18th June please.

*News Updates.... News Updates.... News Updates...*

### Local News

As reported last month, Katie Powell (nee Turner) ran in the London Marathon and it is good to report that she completed her first marathon in 4 hours and 38 minutes. In preparation, she had completed 2 half marathons in North London and Southend. She ran in aid of the mental health charity, 'Mind' and has raised to date at least £4200 for that charity! So 'Congratulations Katie' for your magnificent achievement !

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The 'wild flower meadow' on Barrack Hill, King's Thorn, has had a considerable amount of work carried out by Alan Burge in controlling some of the grasses and the sowing of more wild flower seed. Terry Rogers has maintained the walkways by regular mowing and we thank Alan and Terry for all their hard work.

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### Brownies

1st Much Birch Brownies currently have spaces available for girls to start, so if your daughter has a Monday evening free from 5:30pm- 7:00pm Brownies might be for you!

contact Katie on 01432 351768

### **VIOLETTE SZABO'S**

SPECIAL DAY is on SUNDAY 28th. JUNE at 2pm.

Hopefully, it will be another wonderful occasion with people attending from far and wide!

Exciting news, as a great tribute to Violette, 11 members of the Hannie Schaft Group of Scouts from Haarlem, The Netherlands, are also hoping to be here, accompanied by 4 leaders. Hannie Schaft was nicknamed by the Germans as the girl with the red hair, was shot by the Germans just 2 weeks before the liberation of Holland. How truly tragic!

Please come and join us for Violette's Memorial gathering and may I ask you again to kindly help by bringing different items to add to the refreshments also garden chairs and folding tables.

Rosemary Rigby, Founder and Owner, The Violette Szabo.G.C. Museum.

**01981 540477.**

## *Meetings, Fundraising and Activities*

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

On May 27th, by popular demand, our speaker will be Mr George Alway. His talk is entitled 'Vegetables without Tears' and George is a very down to earth speaker!

On June 24th, we have our first visit of the year which will be an evening visit to

'The Walled Garden at Worcester'. Julia Scott gave us a talk on herbs and Will, her husband gave an illustrated talk about their Walled Garden, from wilderness to completion.

Meet at Kingsthorpe Bus Shelter for a prompt start at 5.30pm. Cost will be £3.50.

All meetings are held on Wednesdays. New members always welcome. John Bryant 540316.

### **Little Birch Village Hall Committee Notices for June 2015**

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

The regular monthly meeting of the 'LBVH Book Exchange' will be on the morning of Saturday 6th June at Little Birch Village Hall 10am – 12 noon.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for "a good read".

A warm welcome, tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided and we look forward to meeting up with regular and new visitors to the Book Exchange.

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire of hall and refreshments.

#### **Whist Drive**

Your local Whist Drive needs **YOU!**

We'd love to see you at our monthly whist drive whether you haven't played for some time or you're a complete beginner. We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 9th June** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30p.m** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

### **The Evergreen Club**

Our next trip will be on **Tuesday 9 June**. We will spend the day at Tredegar House, A National Trust property, just beyond Newport. There are walled gardens and parkland in addition to the 17<sup>th</sup> century house. Light lunches are available in The Brewhouse tearoom.

**Cost including entrance is £15 or £9 for National Trust members ( plus £2 for visitors).**

#### **The pick up times will be:**

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.05
Much Birch Church bus stop	9.10
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.15
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.25
Fontaine Court - Ross	9.35

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

### **Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club**

The May 2015 draw took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May in Much Birch Community Hall at 8pm and the results were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> prize - No 11	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize – No 57	3 <sup>rd</sup> prize – No 91
Mrs. M. Baldwin	Mrs. I. Hemmings	Mr. A. Morrison
Much Birch	Much Birch	Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 10.30am. in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones- Promoter

## Little Birch Village Hall Committee AGM

Our annual general meeting is your chance to find out what we do, how we spend the money we raise at the events we run and how you can get involved and help us ensure our wonderful village hall continues to be a success and asset to the community.

All members of the public are very welcome to attend on **Tuesday 16th June 2015, 7:30pm** at Little Birch village hall and we would be very pleased to see you there.



How does Moses like his tea? Hebrews it.  
Venison for dinner again? Oh deer  
A cartoonist was found dead in his home.  
Details are sketchy.  
I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.  
England has no kidney bank, but it does have a  
Liverpool  
Jokes about German sausages are the wurst.  
Thanks to "a reader" - please don't call us!

### Flu Clinics

The flu clinics this year will be held on **Saturday 3 October and Saturday 17 October.**  
More details will be published later.

### Herefordshire Careline - Help at the push of a button

Herefordshire Careline can give you or your loved ones the reassurance and peace of mind that if you require help, it is not far away!

Careline is a 24-hour personal emergency response service, based in Hereford, which is connected to your home through an alarm unit linked to your telephone line. **In times of need, help is just the push of a button away!**

Our alarms are connected to our friendly operators who are on hand to answer your calls instantly and get you the help you need. The service helps people to continue to live independently in their own homes. We have lots of products to choose from including pendants, watches and sensors.

The Careline service can cost you as little as **58p** per day. In addition, we can also offer you our Mobile Responder Service, a personal onsite visit when you activate your Careline alarm - for an additional **36p** per day.

For more information please speak to our Careline team on 01432 384100.

**Herefordshire Careline is run by the Independence Trust, part of the Herefordshire Housing Group.**

## Athelstan's Wood Walk

Over 35 people turned out on what did not look like being a very promising evening from the weather point of view but turned out to be beautiful. We were led round the wood by the Duchy of Cornwall's Head Forester, Geraint Richards, and his assistant Edward Clark also some of their workforce. Geraint gave us the background of the Duchy and how and why they came to buy the wood. It and the addition of Netherwood made a logical and compact woodland area and justified the appointment of Ed Clark who is based at Dewsall. Ed gave us a background of the history of the wood, he had worked for Tilhill who managed the woods for the previous 10 owners (in a short space of time). The wood is classified as ancient woodland (evidence of it exists from the 1600s). Some of it is semi-natural and must remain so but some was planted with conifers in the 1960s and 70s.



Geraint explained that the main larch stands had been felled because of the spread of the Phytothphera fungus spreading from the south west. Some of these areas have been replanted with a variety of conifers as this is permitted however their plan is that stands of conifers will be smaller and interspersed with hardwood plantations. Geraint pointed out that conifer's rapid growth ensures a much greater uptake of carbon dioxide and did not deny the short-term value of them. The edges of the old larch plantations have been planted with a variety of hardwoods including oak, chestnut, cherry, rowan and hazel. The long-term plan is to fell more conifers and thin existing Douglas Fir plantations to let in more light in an attempt to encourage more varied ground flora. It was good to hear how much ground flora is now being valued. The main rides through the wood and the 'riparian' zone (alongside the stream) will all be planted with a variety of hardwood so the conifers will be screened to an extent.

**South Hereford Rural Police Briefing**  
**14th April—1st May 2015**

Crime Trends

Little Birch

A HTC mobile phone was stolen from the front seat of a red VW golf whilst it was parked on the front drive of a property in the village between 3.45pm and 4pm on Tuesday 21st April. The vehicle had been left unlocked.

Incident no 152-s-220415

St Weonards

A burglary occurred at a private dwelling sometime between 8.30am and 5.45pm on Wednesday 15th April, the back door of the house was found open when the residents returned from work. Jewellery, a kindle and a laptop that were in an upstairs bedroom were taken. A neighbour remembers seeing a silver Peugeot 206 parked opposite the property at around 1pm that day, it was there at least 40 minutes.

Incident ref 455-s-150415

Suspicious vehicles

A silver Citroen Berlingo estate **CA02YNK** was seen acting suspiciously in **Pontrilas** at 11.30 on Saturday 18th April; there were three males in the vehicle which was parked up in a business premises.

Incident ref 254-s-180415

A green and grey Daihatsu **L845MHK** containing two 'scruffy' males was seen in **Much Birch** at around 12.30pm today (Friday 1st May). The vehicle was seen pulling up outside properties and the passenger got out and was having a good look around.

Incident ref 293-s-010515

A blue Landrover discovery **R747BDV** has been seen in suspicious circumstances on three occasions in the area recently - it drove onto a private driveway in **Dinedor** at

5.40pm on Monday 27th April. There were two males in the car, described as 'travellers' in their 30's, both scruffy with greasy black hair. There were also two dogs in the vehicle, a black and white one in the rear and a smaller one in the front. When challenged the males claimed they were lost.

The same vehicle was found abandoned the following day - Tuesday 28th April - in a wooded area in **Holme Lacy**. It appeared to have been left there sometime during the night, it was stuck in mud.

This vehicle had also been seen parked in woodland near **Thrupton** late at night; the occupants were spoken to and came up with an excuse for being there - on this occasion they were described as both being thin, late 30's to early 40's, one with a full beard and the other with a 'shadow' beard, both were scruffy looking.

Incident refs 509-s-270415 & 379-s-280415

**IMPORTANT - In reading this, you understand and agree that any vehicle registration numbers given may belong to members of the public going about their lawful business and no inference expressed or implied should be taken that the vehicle and or its occupants have committed any offence UNLESS otherwise specifically stated by the author of this update.**

A male from Belmont is being interviewed next week by colleagues from Herefordshire Council's enforcement team after fly tipped items in Haywood Lane, **Callow** were traced back to his address.

Three African males were arrested in **Allensmore** at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th April after they had been intimidating customers at Locks Garage. Enquiries revealed that they were illegal immigrants and they were handed over to Customs and Excise officers.

Scams

Below is another example of an e-mail sent to all contacts in a person's address book purporting to come from the person whose account has been hacked. In this case, the receiver of the e-mail did not recognise the name of the person supposedly sending the cry for help and immediately recognised it as a scam...

I hope all is well with you.

I am afraid I have a problem. J\*\*\*\* and I made a trip to Ankara, Turkey, unfortunately we were mugged at the park of the hotel we are staying, all cash, bank card and mobile phone stolen off us but luckily we still have our passports with us, J\*\*\*\* was devastated at this incident and was rushed to the hospital.

I have been to the embassy and the police here but their response was too casual, I have also made contact with my bank but it would take me 3-5 working days to access funds in my account, the bad news is our flight will be leaving very soon but I am having problems settling the hotel bills and the hotel manager won't let me leave until I settle the bills. I thought I would contact you directly, I need your help/LOAN financially, you are my last resort and hope, all I need right now is £2100, I'll appreciate what you can give if not all and I promise to make the refund once I get back home.

Please let me know if I can count on you and I need you to keep checking your email because it's the only way I can reach you.

Best regards

As always, the advice is to delete such e-mails, never reply to them.

#### Alert from Action Fraud – Online Auction websites

Online auction websites are being used by fraudsters to advertise agricultural machinery for sale which do not exist.

The fraudster advertises on an auction website and gets their victim to agree to purchase farming machinery, making sure that all correspondence is done via email.

The victim then receive emails which claim to be from genuine payment merchants or auction websites which state that the money they have paid for the machinery will be held in an 'escrow account'.

The email indicates the money will be released to the seller, once the person has confirmed that they're happy with the purchase. The email says that this will provide the person with 'buyer protection'. In reality these emails are fraudulent, they don't come from the named companies and the bank accounts are controlled by fraudsters.

Protect yourself:

Always stay within the terms and conditions of the auction websites.

Remember that PayPal do not include vehicles under their buyer protection.

Meet the seller 'face to face' and view the vehicle before parting with any money.

Be vigilant of emails that purport to be from genuine companies and check the 'domain' name of the email address for any inconsistencies.

Check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller.

If the vehicle is below market value consider whether this is an opportunity which is too good to be true!

For further information view the Action Fraud website:<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

If you have any information on anything in this report please get in touch.

Kind Regards

*Fiona*

Fiona Witcher PCSO 6173  
Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team  
Peterchurch Police Station  
Herefordshire  
HR2 0RR  
07779 141232  
Or 101 ext 4820

*View our new Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police websites at:  
[www.warwickshire.police.uk](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk)  
and [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)*

## **Much Birch Parish Council**

### **Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright**

Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire, HR2 9NE

Tel. 01981 250860 Email: [muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

**PARISH MEETING** – at the Annual Statutory Parish Council Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting saw the election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Parish Council and the appointment of committees and officers. The Chair gave a vote of thanks to the two outgoing councillors, Jon Norris and Keith James, who had both worked steadfastly to benefit their communities and in particular involving the initiatives to improve the condition of the top of Tump Lane. There are now two vacancies for new parish councillors and anyone who is interested in finding out more, about becoming involved, is very welcome to contact the Parish Clerk, Alison Wright, or their local parish councillor (details below). The Meeting also had an open interactive session with parishioners and a presentation about possible ideas for the site of the old Wormelow Stores.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be an Ordinary Meeting and this will be held on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

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

**Cllr Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW,  
e mail [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wyenet.co.uk) Tel. 01981 540703

**Cllr Steve Turner** (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX,  
e mail [turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com](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 Tim Jones** Swiss Cottage, 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)