

KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

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

MB Village Market

The next market takes place on **FRIDAY, 24TH APRIL** at **Much Birch Community Hall**, just off the A49 at Much Birch, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Please join us in our support of local producers of beef, pork (including Gluten free sausage by order) lamb, chicken, cheese, preserves, bread and cakes. There are stands selling a variety of crafts and a Fair Trade stand. Refreshments are sold in aid of McMillan Cancer Support. Please contact Kath Watts 01981 540382 for further details.

Halfway Community Theatre

Are pleased to announce their April show "Spring Waters" will take place on **FRIDAY & SATURDAY 24TH & 25TH APRIL** at 7.30pm. As usual, we perform in Much Birch Community Centre, tickets are £10 (£5.00 for under 14's) to include supper in the interval. Please bring your own drink and a glass.

In addition we are presenting a repeat of this Concert at, and in aid of Llanwarne Village Hall at 7.30pm. on **SATURDAY 2ND MAY**, £6.00 a ticket to include tea/coffee/biscuits.

Tickets and further information from Jenny Wrigley on 01981 540617.

Gardening Club

The next meeting of King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club will take place on the **WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL** when Adrian Hope will talk on 'All aspects of Tree Care' and there will be a 'Bring and Buy Plant Stall'. The following meeting will be an

DIARY DATES FOR MAY 2009

24TH APRIL – Village Market
24TH & 25TH APRIL – Halfway Community Theatre
29TH APRIL – Kings Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club
30TH APRIL – Little Birch Bingo
2ND MAY – Spring Waters – Repeat performance
5TH MAY – LBVH AGM
12TH MAY – Evergreen Club Outing
12TH MAY – Whist Drive
13TH MAY – W.I. Resolutions Meeting
21ST MAY – History Group Talk by Heather Hurley
22ND MAY – Village Market
23RD MAY – Flicks in the Sticks

ADVANCED NOTICES

5TH JUNE – Pudding Party
16TH JUNE – W.I.

evening visit to Fawley Court Gardens early in June at a date to be announced. All members will be contacted in good time. Helen Fox -541004 and John Bryant 540316.

Little Birch Bingo

This will be on **THURSDAY 30TH APRIL**. Eyes down at 8.00pm. Refreshments and prizes. All welcome.

LBVH AGM

The time has come for this year's management committee to retire and a new one to be elected. The AGM will be at 7.30pm. in the Hall on **TUESDAY 5TH MAY**. It will be an open evening when anyone interested in new developments and finances is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Evergreen Club

On **TUESDAY 12TH MAY** we are going to Cowbridge, in the Vale of

The cost is £12 for members, £14 for non-members, which includes entrance to Dyffryn Gardens, but not lunch or tea. A £3.50 reduction is available to RHS members.

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

The pick-ups are:

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
Tump Lane (bungalows)	8.55
The Park, Wormelow	9.00
Tump Lane (middle)	9.05
Poor Clares Convent	9.10
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.15
M. B. Church bus stop	9.20
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.25
Merton Hotel	9.40
Fontaine Court	9.45

Whist Drive

The next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 12TH MAY** at Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm. Entrance fee £1.50. Good prizes and refreshments and as usual new players are welcome.

Much Birch WI

The next meeting of Much Birch WI on **TUESDAY 13TH MAY** is the Resolutions Meeting.

On **TUESDAY 16TH JUNE** Les Rogers is speaking about the National Trust and the Brockhampton (North Herefordshire) Estate.

Meetings are held in Much Birch Community Hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further details please contact Kath Watts 01981 540382 or Jennifer Jones 01981 540698

History Group Talk

On **THURSDAY 21ST MAY** Heather Hurley is coming to Little Birch Village Hall to talk about '**Perspectives of the Wye Valley from Holme Lacy to Bridstow**'. Heather last came to talk to us about Harewood, a talk much enjoyed by a number of people. This talk promises to be just as interesting. It will be based on the book *Landscape Origins of the Wye Valley* which she edited and co-authored. She will cover early and modern history of the parishes which are adjacent to the River Wye and will talk about many aspects of the Wye itself, altogether a fascinating area. As before, Heather will follow up the talk with a walk around the Pengethley/Hentland area on Sunday afternoon June 7th, more details at the talk and in the next newsletter. The talk will be at 7.30pm. in the hall and entry will be £2.50, to include light refreshments.

Much Birch Village Market

The May Village Market is on **FRIDAY 22ND MAY** in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm. and 4.30pm. Come and join us in supporting local food producers. For further details please contact Kath Watts 01981 540382.

Flicks In The Sticks

in association with Arts Alive

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE 15 at Much Birch Community Hall, on **SATURDAY 23RD MAY**.

Jamal Malik, an 18 year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, is just one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?' Arrested on suspicion of cheating, he tells the police the incredible story of his life on the streets, and of the girl he loved and lost. But what is a kid with no interest in money doing on the show? And how is it he knows all the answers?

This multi Oscar and Bafta award winning film ends the Flicks season. Flicks in the Sticks returns in September.

Doors open at 7.00pm. and the film commences at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3.50 (£2.50 under 16s) and are available in advance or on the door. For further information or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly on 01981 541274.

Pudding Party

Previous pudding parties and social evenings have proved a huge success. The next mid-summer pudding party will be at 7.00pm. on **FRIDAY 5TH JUNE**. Entrance £5-£3.50 for children under 12. Eat as much as you can! Pudding contributions would be very welcome.

Local News

New baby, ARTHUR HUGHES has been introduced at various events recently and his communication skills are most advanced for a boy just a few months old as he bumbled quite poetically that his second name was Dylan, not as spelt in the last Newsletter. Sincere apologies were accepted by Arthur and parents, Lydia and John.

Apologies are also sent to the Helme family for giving Tom's age incorrectly. He was in fact 88 years old at the time of his passing.

Congratulations to LINDA and MARTIN RANDALL on their marriage which took place on Easter Monday. We wish them every happiness.

Belated congratulations are extended to SARAH and GRAHAM DEAN on the birth of their son, TOM HENRY, who arrived on 27th February.

A warm welcome is given to MELISSA and PAUL SAVAGE and their son, MICHAEL, and daughter, REBECCA, who have come to live at Tabor Court, King's Thorn, having moved from a cottage on Hill Farm. We trust that they will all be happy in their new home with such wonderful views.

Sadly, DANIELLE MARSH has retired after 18 years of service at the Surgery. Her welcoming smile and helpful disposition will be greatly missed and we wish her well in the future.

It is sad to report the death of BRIAN THOMAS POWELL of Hollybush Lane at the age of 79 years. A Service to Celebrate his Life was held at Much Birch on 7th April conducted by Rev. Preb. Kay Garlick. Such was the respect and esteem in which Brian was held that the Church was full to overflowing.

Brian was born in Cwmcarn, Monmouthshire but moved to Hereford when he was aged 6 with his brother, Stanley, and their parents, who had taken over an existing business. He attended Lord Scudamore School and later, went on to Pings Commercial College.

Having studied commerce with shorthand and typing, Brian obtained a post in the Education Dept. of the Herefordshire Council and was involved with the Youth Service for many years.

He loved the sport of Boxing and enjoyed travelling all over the country refereeing youth events with his friend, John Jones. He maintained a life long interest in motor sport and would 'warm up' sports cars before races with

Johnny Walker, a professional racing driver.

Although he never mastered the language, Brian was fiercely proud of his Welsh roots. He was a great supporter of the Welsh Rugby Team and was often a steward at International matches, again with his friend, John Jones.

Brian later worked in administration at the Hereford College of Technology, where he met his future wife, Caroline. After a few years in this job, he was encouraged by the then Head of Building, John Hill, to train as a teacher. In 1968, he went to St. Peter's College, Saltley, Birmingham, where he qualified as a teacher of Craft Design and Technology and subsequently, obtained a teaching post in Birmingham.

Caroline and Brian were married in 1972 and a year later, Brian joined Monmouth Comprehensive School, where he had many happy years in teaching. During this time, he made many good friends and was very proud when erstwhile students would stop him in Monmouth to say 'Thank you' for all the help he had given them.

When he retired, Brian was able to devote much time to DIY and Caroline would often dread coming home from work in case another building project had been started. Every project would take much longer to complete than had been anticipated but over the years, Caroline has realised how much hard earned cash had been saved. Roger and Huw Williams recalled many hilarious events, especially when Brian said he could repair an old, rather rusted Morris Minor belonging to one of them. He began welding one of the cills, when the bodywork caught fire due to the fact that previous repairs had been carried out with Isopon filler.(very inflammable, as Brian discovered). Undeterred, he went off and returned smiling, carrying a second hand, same-colour door and associated fittings. Sadly, after fitting the door, it was found to be

6 inches too long, having come from another model.

Brian joined the Freemasons at the age of 28, was a very keen member and took his part wholeheartedly. Caroline and Brian were great friends with Marilyn and Bill Hurst and Bill, who was introduced to Freemasonry by Brian, gave a moving tribute, saying how dependable and loyal a friend Brian had been over many years. Nothing was too much trouble for him and he would help anyone in any way. Brian also joined the Hereford Probus Club and enjoyed their Thursday morning discussion meetings.

When Caroline retired, she recalled visiting an endless number of castles, many of which she described as yet another 'ruin' but which enthused Brian. In the community, they joined Meals on Wheels as deliverers and gave 10 years of loyal service. They were also keen members of the Gardening Club.

Brian was a great animal lover, so much so that during the last 5 months that he was in hospital, the doctors and nurses knew that all he wanted was to get home to his dog, Beth. In his younger days, he had ambitions to become a 'vet', but his father discouraged this as he said that 'horses were going out of fashion'. In the time that he was at home, he enjoyed nothing more than viewing the garden and the many birds visiting the feeding table.

The last months were very difficult for Brian and Caroline, but Caroline was devoted to caring for him and he appreciated the visits of family, friends and neighbours.

He will be sadly missed by a great many people, both for his dry and wicked sense of humour and for his loyalty and friendship. We send to Caroline and members of his wider family our sincere sympathies at this time.

Donation

We would like to thank Percy Verry for his most generous

donation towards the cost and delivery of the Newsletter.

Dawn Chorus Walk

The Mason family would like to thank all those who so enthusiastically joined the Dawn Chorus Walks on the farm in early April. Special thanks to John Penrice, Adrian Hodges and Coral Gidley for their knowledge and help. Nearly £300 was raised for local causes. See you all again next year.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee would like to thank Sue and Bob Mason for the generous contribution to Hall funds from the proceeds of the dawn Chorus Walk.

Little Birch Quiz

Fifteen teams contested the quiz on March 31st. The Independents team (John Bryant, John Caton, Edna and Roger Thomas) won the cup with a very creditable score of 106 points out of a possible total 130. Thanks are due to Alison and Des Clarke for marking and keeping score and especially to Kath Watts for asking the questions. The Committee expects to make this an annual event.

M.B.P.C

Report on Much Birch Parish Council meeting of Thursday 5th March.

Parish Litter Pick

A litter pick of the Parish is to take place on **SATURDAY 2ND MAY** at 10am meeting at The Thorn bus stop area. If you are interested in helping please contact the Parish Council Chairman John Jones. For more information or visit www.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

Further information will be posted on the Parish notice boards shortly.

Communications Policy was agreed and is available on the Much Birch website.

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on **THURSDAY 7TH MAY** at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Meeting of The Parish Council.

Planning Approval

Application DCSW2008/2384/RM

Site Land Adjacent to Orchard House Lower, Wrigglebrook, Kings Thorn, Hereford- New Dwelling

Correspondence.

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

Date of next meeting

Please note the change of date for June's meeting to **THURSDAY 9TH JUNE** at 7.30pm. due to the hall being closed for the European Elections.

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

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

Overnight on 1st/2nd March outbuildings at Thrupton were broken into and power tools and a cycle were stolen.

Overnight on 3rd/4th March wooden gates were stolen from Lasket Lane, Much Birch.

Overnight on 5th/6th March doors and gates were stolen from premises under construction at Allensmore.

Overnight on 6th - 9th March sheds were broken into at Garway School. Offenders scattered play equipment around.

Overnight 9th/10th March a car was broken into on a car park in Kingstone and tools were stolen. The same night 2 premises in Cooks Lane were entered and power tools and a pedal cycle were stolen. There is a person on police bail for these offences.

Overnight 18th/19th March fuel was stolen from an industrial estate in Kingstone.

Between 18th & 21st March lawn mowers and garden equipment was taken from premises at Orcop.

Overnight 28th/29th March tyres were punctured on a vehicle in Whitehouse Drive, Kingstone.

Latest briefing

Another Ifor Williams trailer has been stolen recently, this 6' x 4' single axle trailer was taken from a field in Hoarwithy between 8.30 pm on 9th April and 0100 on 10th April. The gate to the field had been padlocked, but the padlock had been forced off.

There are a few vehicles we'd like you to keep an eye out for

A Daihatsu pick up M**TNP is suspected of thefts of batteries and electric fencing in the Longtown area, and possibly other areas.

An old style Landrover Discovery, part reg KDE, seen in the area of a large value theft from a property under construction in Peterchurch.

A black New style Suzuki Vitara jeep was seen in suspicious circumstances at 6.30 am in Newtown St Margarets, near a barn conversion development. There were two occupants, a white male with distinct acne scars on his face, she spoke with a welsh accent.

Today, 15th April, a Grey Mitsubishi Shogun Estate H9**FNV was seen acting suspiciously in the Wormelow and Llanwarne areas.

The vehicle had been seen several times throughout the morning, with several persons inside. The last time it was seen there were only two occupants, and the caller, being suspicious, followed it to Llanwarne where it had parked up in a field behind a hedge, and one of the occupants was seen in the garden of a property nearby. When disturbed, all occupants got into the vehicle and made a quick getaway.

Please keep your eyes peeled for these or any other vehicles or persons acting suspiciously.

Results

Four males, 15yrs, 17yrs, 18yrs and 39yrs were arrested at Much Birch for going equipped to steal. They have been released on police bail for further enquiries.

A 49yr old male from Harewood End was arrested for assault. He was released without charge.

38yr old male arrested for drink/drive at Allensmore. Released without charge.(just under limit)

21yr old male arrested at Callow for drink/drive and obstruct police. Charged and bailed to court.

Two youths 15yrs and 17yrs were arrested for an assault that occurred in Kingstone. They have been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

A 17yr old youth and two 18yr olds have now been charged and summoned to court for the criminal damage to the vehicles that occurred in Kingstone on 03/01/09. They have been charged with 14 offences in total.

Nip Garden Crime In The Bud

Now is the time of year when the great British public rush out into the spring sunshine to catch up on all the garden chores they have neglected for the past few months and so West Mercia Constabulary will shortly be starting its annual Garden Security campaign.

Although many people take steps to protect their homes and property inside them, valuable equipment is often left inside insecure sheds and outbuildings, providing easy pickings for opportunist thieves.

Whilst garden crime may be seen as a more minor offence, it can be very unsettling for victims and, with a little effort, the risk can be greatly reduced.

Many householders confine their expensive lawnmowers and power tools to a rickety shed in the garden. Try putting these in the garage instead, if room permits, which will be more secure.

If the shed is all that's available, make sure it's in good repair and fit a good-quality padlock to it. Windows can be protected by putting a grille or mesh up on the inside. Shed alarms are now commonplace and reasonably cheap.

Really keen gardeners can go one step further and use 'defensive planting' to help, which makes use of prickly bushes grown under windows and fences to stop people

climbing in or over - and it looks much better than barbed wire!

But it's not just gardening gear that people keep in sheds - bicycles, sports gear and golf clubs are all items that find themselves stored in the shed but are expensive to replace and need to be kept securely locked up.

Working Together

Recent major incidents in Hereford and Ledbury have placed a considerable strain on police staff, who, it must be said, have all risen to the challenges in true West Mercia style. The importance of the role that local communities have played must also be recognised.

Following the tragic murder of teenager, Daren Loader, on 12th March, local communities have rallied marvellously in response to initial tensions experienced between some local youths and ethnic groups, mainly on Internet chat rooms and social networking sites. The public response has been excellent, according to Ch Supt Mark Turner, writing in the Hereford Times, and commended "the whole community's efforts to pursue and maintain peace and justice and with their whole support behind us (the police)." Two men have been charged with murder.

A large police investigation was also started on 28th March when an offender started four fires in New Street, Ledbury, including a car at the Talbot Hotel which quickly spread to the hotel itself. Several people were evacuated only just in the nick of time and a major tragedy was averted. Terrific support and assistance was given by the local Ledbury community in response to the series of arsons that night and within 48 hours a suspect had been identified, arrested and charged with four counts of arson with intent to endanger life.

As these recent events show, if we all work together we can achieve so much more.

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 **JUNE** 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 MAY

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Please mark your envelope

"Kings Thorn Newsletter"

Shaun Ronan

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