



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

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury May 2015. First published 1977

In Aid of Much Birch  
Church

## A DELICIOUS PUDDINGS EVENING

with a  
**LIVE MAGIC SHOW**

By the talented Marcos Spalding

And a screening of the film

### CHEWING THE CUD

in celebration of the last days of Hereford  
Cattle Market

**Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 at 7.30pm**

In Much Birch Community Hall

*A Film, live Magic before your very eyes, and*

*all the Puds you can eat for just*

£8.00 per head with u-12yrs £5.00

Tea & coffee available or BYO drinks

Tickets from: 01981 540980 or 540677



## Diary Dates

### April

29th Gardening Club LBVH

### May

2nd Puddings Evening MBCH

5th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

6th Duchy Walk, Athelstans Wood

7th Election Day

9th Book Exchange LBVH

12th Evergreen Club Trip

12th Whist Drive LBVH

14th Much Birch Parish Council MBCH

16th Plant Sale MBCH

16th Shep Wooley M Dewchurch VH

21st History Talk?

22nd Village market MBCH

27th Gardening Club LBVH

### June

13th Monmouth MV Choir MBCH

20th Halfway Theatre Company

## Plant Sale

Much Birch Community Hall

**Sat 16 May at 2:15pm**

Plants

Cakes, Bring and Buy Bric a brac

Refreshments

Raising funds for Much Birch Church

Any donations gratefully received

please contact Nichola on 541376

## Half Way Theatre Company

Invites you to a Garden Party at the home of

Jenny and Arthur Wrigley. Little Fields,

Llanwarne Sat 20th June from 2.30pm.

The theme is 'Tune in June'.

Tickets £3 from Audrey Crowte GV 540432.

A evening's entertainment with

## SHEP WOOLEY

Supported by

**Compost Heap**

**Saturday, 16th May @ 7.30pm**

Much Dewchurch Memorial Hall

Ok, so you've not heard of Shep,  
but you **will** enjoy his combination of songs,  
stories and jokes.

Nothing high-brow, just good fun!

If you enjoyed Dick Brice and Quarto, then this is for you.

So tell your friends and book up now.

Tickets: £10 (including supper)

No bar, so bring your own drink and glasses

From: Bob and Sue Chance—01981 540725

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

## Local News.

**Katie Powell**, daughter of **Linda and Steve Turner**, is running in the London Marathon in aid of 'Mind', the mental health charity and we wish her every success in fund raising for this most worthy of charities.

A warm welcome is given to **Janet and Raymond Barrell** who have moved into Rectory Gardens, Tump Lane following their retirement from 40 years of farming at Grafton. They are well known to many in the area and we wish them many years of happiness in their new home.

It is sad to report the sudden death of **John Walker** at the age of 80. He was born at Dinedor to Harry and Ruth Walker who then moved to Little Birch when John was aged 1 year and brother, Bill came along a few years later. John attended Little Birch School for some 9 years but transferred to Much Birch for his last year of education. He did odd jobs for Capt. and Mrs Burdon at 'Hergest' in the school holidays and then did gardening for them when he left school. He joined the Territorial Army before being called up for National Service at the age of 18. John served with the KSLI in Germany and became the OC's driver, continuing in this role when his Unit returned to the UK. After demob, he worked at Johnson's garage at the bottom of the Callow for a few years and then drove delivery lorries for Davies Brook, the soft drink manufacturers. In 1961, John married Berenice Hancock, whose family lived at Upper House, just beyond the Methodist Chapel and just in Aconbury parish. They had 3 children, Roxanne, Ian and Kate who all attended Much Birch School.

John worked for the contractors who were building the M50 motorway and later joined the staff at Acheson's Long Orchard Farm where the main crops were strawberries, blackcurrants and apples as well as several houses of pigs. Later the pigs were replaced by chickens and the poultry muck was easier to spread in the blackcurrants. Berenice also worked at the farm during the picking seasons. When the farm was sold, John was made redundant and later joined Bulmers, checking in the cider apples during the autumn season. He stayed with Bulmers for 15 years until his retirement.

John and the family supported the Village Hall in many ways. John was often prominent in the annual pantomimes, he was 'caller' at the monthly bingo sessions and arranged and ran disco

dances.

Berenice and John later joined Ian and Julie when they ran the Castle Inn, where Ian was an excellent chef and Berenice and John created a very extensive and attractive garden. In due time, grandchildren came along and more recently Berenice and John became great grand parents. Later, they went on continental holidays with their friends in the village including trips to Switzerland, the World War battlefields and the Menin Gate in Belgium.

After spending all their working lives in Little Birch Parish, Berenice and John moved to a council bungalow in Little Dewchurch some 10 years ago but John has not enjoyed good health for several years. He spent several months in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital last year and again early this year. His death at home was sudden and an awful shock to Berenice and the family to whom, with brother, Bill, we send our sincere sympathies. Hereford Crematorium was full with family and many friends on Thursday, April 2nd. and the Service was conducted by retired priest, Rev. Brian Phillips from Ross. On the front of the Service sheet was a lovely and typical photograph of a smiling John. Donations in memory of John were given to Much Birch Surgery.

We were also sad to hear the sudden death of June nee Lloyd's husband, **Steve Holdsworth**. Steve was playing golf when he suddenly collapsed as reported in the Hereford Times. We send our sincere condolences to June and her family and also to Sue Jones and Diane Smith, June's sisters, and their families.

Many in the community will have known **Don Preece** who spent a big part of his life in Much Dewchurch. He died suddenly the day after celebrating 50 years as Verger at St. David's Church. He married Brenda in 1967 and together they kept the church spotlessly clean. Don's great love was singing and bell ringing and he locked and unlocked the church each day. One of his biggest projects was in re-hanging the bells from the original wooden one to a new steel frame. He did most of the work himself and also oversaw the re-roofing of the church. We offer our deepest sympathy to Brenda. Don will be very sadly missed by a great number of friends.

Many in the farming community will be sad to hear of the death of Ken Watkins of the Gillow Farm, St. Owen's Cross. He was 84 years of age and a stalwart committee member of the Llanwarne

Ploughing Society for many years. St. Weonards Church was full and overflowing with some 300 plus mourners, such was the high regard in which Ken was held. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, Joan, and to son and daughter, Philip and Carolyn, and their families.

It is good to report that friends in the community who have been in hospital are recuperating well at home

### **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 Social 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.

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

#### **Annual Quiz**

The quiz this year was again a great success with 15 teams competing for the cup. Four teams had very high scores but congratulations to the eventual winners, the **Porters** and the **Rogers**. My they have many happy months polishing the cup!

The last round was in memory of Des Clark who set three rounds in previous years. The questions were based on his many interests and what he might have set had he still been with us. Ben Roberts took his place and it was pleasing to welcome a younger member to the organising group.

Hope to welcome a large turnout again next year.

#### **Traditional Pub Night**

The hall was full of local people meeting for a drink and to play the odd game of darts and cards. Hot dogs were enjoyed by all.

The money raised at the bar and by the draw has been used to start a fund to buy a defibrillator unit that is proposed to be installed outside the hall for easy access. Contributions to the fund can be left in the hall post box or handed to committee members. This could save lives!

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

The regular monthly meeting of the 'LBVH Book Exchange' will be on the morning of Saturday 9th May at Little Birch Village Hall 10am – 12pm.

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. It was good to see several new faces last month.

#### **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 12th May at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at 7.30p.m and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

#### **Duchy Walk – Athelstan's Wood**

On Wednesday May 6th Geraint Richards , the Duchy of Cornwall's Head Forester, will take us on a walk round Athelstan's Wood to explain what activity has been taking place there and what their plans for the future are.

Since Athelstan's Wood is further away than Aconbury and since parking at the wood entrance is limited, it is suggested that we meet at the Village Hall at 5.30 then arrange car sharing. For anyone who wishes to walk there, we will meet at the main gate of the wood (accessed via New Mills) ready to start the walk at 6.00 pm

Afterwards there will be refreshments at the Village Hall for which there will be a small charge.

This should be a fascinating evening learning how the Duchy intends to rescue the wood from its unsympathetic management of the past decades. The bluebells in the wood should be at their best then.

#### **History Talk**

**Unfortunately the talk on 'Feet' arranged for Thursday April 30th has had to be cancelled due to illness.** It is hoped it will now take place on Thursday May 21st, 7.30 in Little Birch Village Hall. Entry £3 to include light refreshments.

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

The new season starts with a talk by Roger Umpleby on the subject of Weeds , the good, the

bad and the ugly. April 29th 7.30pm.

On May 27th, George Alway from South Glos. talks on **Vegetables without Tears**. All meetings are held in Little Birch Hall on the last Wed. of the month at 7.30pm. Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

John Bryant 01981 540316.

### **The Evergreen Club**

Our next trip will be on Tuesday, 12 May. We will stop at the **Jinney Ring Craft Centre** before going to Avoncroft Museum of Historical Buildings, where they will provide a cold buffet lunch. There is also a small cafe where you can purchase tea and cake.

Cost - including entrance to Avoncroft is £15.50 (£17.50 for visitors) – plus £5 for lunch.

Any enquiries, please ring Bridget on 01981 540932

The pick-up times are:

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	9.35

### **British Red Cross Open Gardens**

We have two beautiful gardens for you to visit this June. Rarely open to the public, **Fawley Court** garden is beautifully designed and planted with mixed herbaceous borders, roses and outstanding delphiniums. There is an unusual water garden providing the perfect place to relax and then **Brilley Court** with its walled ornamental kitchen garden, seven acre arboretum, wild stream garden and notable rhododendron collection should certainly not be missed. On both occasions a light lunch, teas and a raffle will all be available to make your afternoon very special.

Entry £5.00 and children under 12 are free.

Sunday 21st June: **Fawley Court** (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Clay) Fawley, Herefordshire, HR1 4SP Open 12.00 to 5.00pm.

Sunday 28th June: **Brilley Court** (by kind permission of Mrs Bulmer) Brilley, Whitney-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR3 6JF Open 12.00 to 5.00pm

### **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

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd April at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting discussed postings on the Parish Website, in light of recent requests and confirmed the current position regarding postings. There will be a policy review and, following training undertaken by the Clerk, she will also be able to add postings, if required. The Parish Council would be meeting with Herefordshire Housing, on site at the play space in Tump Lane, to find out more about the plans for the play space and to discuss the options for any new equipment. The Parish Council would be subject to the electoral period review and nominations for those wishing to stand for the Parish Council were being sent in. The names of those standing would be published after the 9th April. The list of councillors published below may alter from the May meeting onwards.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be the Annual Parish and Statutory Meetings and these will be held on Thursday 14th May 2015 from the earlier time of 7.00pm - 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 Tel. 01981 540703

**Cllr Steve Turner** (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 540090

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

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

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

**Cllr Tim Jones** Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorne, 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)

### **South Hereford Rural Police Briefing**

#### **Crime Trends**

##### **Little Dewchurch**

A length of fencing adjacent to the road that runs between the village and Aconbury was damaged overnight on Saturday 4th/Sunday 5th April. The fence had just been repaired after a road traffic accident; all the new rails and posts had been cut through along a 24' stretch.

Incident ref396-s-050415

##### **Pontrilas**

Overnight on Tuesday 7th/Wednesday 8th April a rotavator, link box and topper to fit a small tractor were stolen from a secure compound at a business premises. The items, which were heavy, were lifted onto a trolley using a JCB- both were already in the yard - and were removed from the yard by using a makeshift bridge across a ditch onto a lane.

Incident ref 98-s-080415

The same night, a multi axle Ifor Williams trailer was stolen from a large barn in a farm yard, along with a pressure washer and several bales of hay. The trailer was bearing the registration number T147OWG

Incident ref 483-s-080415

##### **Wormelow**

A large shed at a business premises was broken into between 12noon on Friday 3rd and 7.30am on Monday 6th April; a child's blue quad bike, a Makita lawnmower and a Husqvana chainsaw were stolen. Also taken were two Makita angle grinders, a Makita circular saw and a JCB drill, plus a strimmer and some hand tools.

Incident ref 138-s-060415

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

#### **Much Birch WI**

Much Birch WI holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in Much Birch

Community Hall.

The May meeting, on the 19th, will be the Resolutions meeting, when we hear about this year's Resolution and vote upon whether it be adopted to go forward to the National AGM.

Visitors and potential new members are welcome. Please contact Gillian, 01981 540080 or Caroline, 01981 540422 for more details.

#### **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 May market will be held on 22nd of the month. Stalls will include;

Moor Meals, award winning, local suppliers of Dexter beef, ready meals and pies, Llandinabo Farm shop, selling sausages, chicken, duck, lamb etc. as well as some cooked meats and cheese. Also we have Castle Cheese, and Mr. G's award winning chutney and preserves.

There are craft stands and a Fair Trade stand. If you would like to have a stall, or to find out more about the market, please contact Mark on 01432 278026

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

Details are correct at the time of sending to press.

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

The April 2015 draw took place on 12th April in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am and the results were as follows:

1st prize - No 43 Mr. & **Mrs. R. Brimacombe**

Much Birch

2nd prize - No 94 **Mr. C. Sherwood** Much Birch

3rd prize - No 8 **Mr. B. Clouder** King's Thorn

The next draw will take place on 2nd May 2015 at 8pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones Promoter

#### **Save your seedlings and Plants**

Much Birch Church Fundraising Committee is holding a Plant Sale and Afternoon Tea in Much Birch Community Hall on Saturday, 16th May 2015 at 2.15pm. As usual they would be very grateful for the donations of plants and cakes for a cake stall. Please contact Nichola Salter tel: 01981 541376.

## St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens

(Supported by Radbournes)

This year, gardeners from Herefordshire and beyond are using their horticultural creativity to support St Michael's Hospice by opening their gardens. There are some truly beautiful and well-tended gardens to visit, which include private gardens not normally open to the public such as the Newport House estate.

Several communities have also come together to open their gardens, including **Hardwicke, Llangrove and Kingsland.**

**Bryan's Ground** Stapleton, Nr. Presteigne, LD8 2LP By kind permission of David Wheeler & Simon Dorrell Saturday 16th May 2015 2.00pm-5.00pm Adults £6.00 children £2.00 Refreshments and plants available. Accessible to wheelchair users, Guide dogs only Parking available.

Hosting 8.5 acres of intimate garden rooms, you'll be impressed with the towers, topiary, pools, potager, paths and plentiful variety of colour-schemed flower borders, shrubberies and arboretum at Bryan's Ground.

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

### Kingsland

A variety of ten gardens will be opening in Kingsland in support of St Michael's Hospice

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June

11.00am-5.00pm on Saturday and 2.00pm 5.00pm on Sunday

Ticket price includes entry to all of the gardens and are valid for the two days of opening

Refreshments will be served at The Old House and at The Methodist Chapel.

If you would like visit an Open Garden and support your Hospice please visit [www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk.com](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk.com) or call the Community Fundraising Team at St Michael's Hospice on 01432 851000

## Make a Will and support your Hospice

During the month of June, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Solicitors, are offering to waive their will writing fee for making simple wills in exchange for a donation to St Michael's Hospice. The suggested donation is £90 for a single will and £135 for mirror wills.

Demand for the St Michael's Will Scheme is expected to be high and we therefore recommend that you make an appointment well in advance with Sally Smith on 01432 349677 (Hereford) or Emily Hardaker on 01989 562377 (Ross office).

### Church Services in May

- 3rd. L. Birch 11am BCP Communion.
- 10th. Benefice Service 10.30am  
Rogation Service at Llandinabo Court Farm.
- 17th. MBirch 0915am. Family Communion  
LBirch 11am Family Worship
- 24th. Archenfield Group Service  
at Much Dewchurch 10am
- 31st MBirch 0915am. CW Communion  
Fawley Chapel 11am BCP Communion