

King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch & Much Birch – October 2008

Harvest Supper (LBVH)

Please bring your plate, pudding bowl, knife, fork, spoon and glass to our Harvest Supper which will be held on **FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER**. Price £6 per meal.

Flu Jabs

Much Birch Surgery are holding two sessions for 'flu jabs on **SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER** and on **SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER** both from 9.00am. – 11.00am. in **Much Birch Community Hall**.

Whist Drive

We are holding a Whist Drive at Little Birch Village Hall on **TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER**. We shall Start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee will be £1.50 There are excellent Prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

Evergreen Club

Historic Wells and its beautiful cathedral more than matched up to all our expectations.

Our last outing of the year is to Knighton and Presteigne on **TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER**. Knighton is a small, unspoilt border town with a choice of places for lunch. In the afternoon we go to Presteigne, primarily to visit the award-winning Judge's Lodgings (£4.25 to be paid on entry), though the town itself offers much of interest.

The cost for the coach will be £6.50 (£8.50 for non-members) plus a further £2 for those being picked up in Ross. The number to ring is **01981 540932**.

Please note the different pick-up times

8.55	Merton Hotel
9.00	Fontaine Court
9.15	Axe & Cleaver
9.20	M.B.Church Bus Stop
9.25	Tump Lane (Bungalows)
9.30	The Park, Wormelow
9.35	Tump Lane (Middle)
9.40	Poor Clares Convent
9.45	Kings Thorn Bus Shelter
9.50	Coach Depot Brandon

Flicks in the Sticks

DIARY DATES OCTOBER 2008

10TH OCTOBER – Harvest Supper
11TH OCTOBER – 'Flu Jabs'
14TH OCTOBER – Whist Drive
14TH OCTOBER – Evergreen Club Outing
18TH OCTOBER – 'Flu Jabs'
18TH OCTOBER – And When Did You Last See Your Father? "12A"
21ST OCTOBER – W.I.
24TH OCTOBER – Village Market
24TH OCTOBER – Haunted Evening
29TH OCTOBER – Gardening Club
30TH OCTOBER – Bingo
ADVANCE NOTICES
1ST NOVEMBER – Tips Tastes & Techniques
21ST & 22ND NOVEMBER – Halfway Community Theatre
3RD DECEMBER – Gardening Club Christmas Social

On **SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER** at 7.30pm the showing will be **AND WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER? "12A"**

Jim Broadbent shines in this painfully honest yet often hilarious re-telling of Blake Morrison's memoirs; also starring Colin Firth, Juliet Stevenson and Gina McKee.

Refreshments served from 7.00pm.

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER at 6.00pm
— **WALL-E U**

Another great family animation from Pixar, the team that brought you Toy Story & Finding Nemo - a visual feast that is completely out of this world.

(Special Offer! – one adult ticket at £3 when bought with a child ticket)

Refreshments served from 5.50pm.
Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly 01981 541274.

Films, start times and dates are liable to change so please check before making a journey.

W.I.

On **TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER**, at Much Birch Hall at 7.30pm. Richard Jordan will be entertaining us with music and slides about Route 66.

If you would like further details of our programme please contact Barbara Wilson

on 01432 840559 or Kath Watts on 01981 540382.

Haunted Evening

On **FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER** at 7.30p.m. by popular request, there is to be a return visit and evening with Hereford City Councillor John Newman. Price £5 (including soup and bread).

M.B. Village Market.

The next Village Market will be on **FRIDAY, 24TH OCTOBER** in Much Birch Community Hall from 2.30-4.30pm. As well as the usual stalls selling vegetables, pies, Ice Cream, fresh pork and gluten free fare, there will be a stall selling chutneys, jams and fresh bread. There will be a variety of local craft makers, plant stall and the Fair Trade stand as well.

Please come and support these local traders and producers and keep this very worthwhile market going. Refreshments, tea and delicious cakes, will be provided by Chris and Peter Dowsett and Pauline Rogers in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

Gardening Club

The October meeting of the Gardening Club will be held in Little Birch Village Hall on **WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER** at 7.30pm. The talk given by

Janet Gwinnett will be on 'The Gardens of South Herefordshire'.

Advance notice : The Christmas Social will be held at 7.30pm on **WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER**.

Bingo

Eyes down at 8.00pm on **THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER** at Little Birch Village Hall. There are good prizes and refreshments will be available.

Tips, Tastes & Techniques

Come to an evening with the renowned local chef, Ken Tait on **SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm in Much Birch Hall. Let Ken make you the perfect chef. Forget the stress and pleasure the success. Enjoy the evening as Ken guides us through a whole range of delicious dishes, with professional tips and techniques and lots of tasters. £10.00 a head, includes Punch on arrival, tasters and leaflets. Tickets can be obtained from Lesley on 01981 540366 and John on 540980. Be ready with canapés and starters plus main courses and desserts for Christmas entertaining.

Halfway Community Theatre

The Halfway Community Theatre are pleased to announce their Autumn show 'A Victorian Box of Delights' to be held on **FRIDAY & SATURDAY 21ST & 22ND NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

Tickets are £10 (£5 for under 14's), to include supper in the Interval and you can book by calling Jenny Wrigley on 01981 540617.

Local News

October will be a very exciting and busy month for the REV. MOSES NTHUKAH and his family as Moses has been elected Bishop designate of his home diocese of Mbeere in Kenya. We send our hearty congratulations to Moses and our thanks for all the work that he and his family have done in the Archenfield Group over the last 2 years. We wish them all well in their new situation and there is no doubt that Moses will make an excellent Bishop. Congratulations are also extended to FRANK SHORT, who recently celebrated his 96th birthday with a very enjoyable luncheon at the Pilgrim Hotel. He is not enjoying the best of health at the present but he is determined not to let that stop him travelling and making the most of life. Well done! Frank and keep taking the 'special medicine'.

A number of friends have been in hospital or had hospital treatment recently and we assure them that they continue in our

thoughts and prayers. It is good to see IRIS LLOYD back at home and making steady progress and we hope all things will go well for SELBY when he goes to Birmingham for a bypass operation.

HARRIET CHAPMAN, one of our local young people, who attends St Mary's RC High School, has been selected to take part in the Borneo Expedition 2009 with the Hereford Expedition Group, which is in partnership with Raleigh International.

Together they work on challenging environmental and community projects around the world. As part of their community project they will be working on installing a 15km water pipe which will supply water to the village community.

They will also experience living in the jungle and teaching the local children English. As part of the challenge they have to fundraise £2,500 and will be taking part in a 17mile sponsored walk across the black mountains. We wish her well in this extremely worthwhile project.

Last week, OLIVE and RODERICK STEWART moved to their new home at Rose Garden and we wish them many years of happiness in their new home.

Both have been very active in the community over a good number of years, especially in the Gardening Club and many young people have had great enjoyment with Roderick's dolls houses which have been expertly furnished by Olive. You will both be greatly missed but not forgotten!

Sadly, we have to record the passing of SUE CONSTANTINE at the age of 66 years. Sue came to Tabor Court with her late husband, John, in the early 1970's and most people will have noted her welcoming to patients at the local surgery, where she worked for some 7 years or so.

She then took a Practice Managers course and left the surgery to become 'Beds Manager' at the County Hospital until her retirement after which she helped set up a scheme to give medical help to 'travelling families'. John and Sue loved their horses and ran a gymkhana at the Little Birch Show in 1981. Unfortunately, John died in 1994 and Sue took a long while to come to terms with his passing. She loved her many cats and was very much helped by her great friend, Jenny Preece and later by Shirley Suckling. Sue spent most of her time in the garden after retirement and created a beautiful 'Cornish Garden' with choice and somewhat tender plants and shrubs. When eventually she was not able to look after the garden as she would like, she employed some help and in the last few years from Tim Townsend, whose wife, Jane, had helped Sue for many years with the horses. She will be greatly missed by her many friends.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will begin shortly in the Wormelow Hundred group of Churches and as the Hereford Open Door for the Homeless is one of the chosen charities this year, it is suggested that a good proportion of our gifts should be in the form of 'Dry goods and canned foods', which can be more easily used for this most worthwhile project.

Harewood – talk and walk

More than 70 people turned up to hear Heather Hurley talk about the history of Harewood Park. It proved to be a most interesting and well-illustrated talk giving an overview from earliest times up to the present. We heard how there have been Neolithic and Bronze Age finds on the estate, also Roman urns with ashes. By the Norman conquest it was part of Harewood Forest which included Athelstan's and Aconbury woods. There were apparently continuous trees from Harewood End to Hoarwithy. Harewood itself was given to the Knights Templar by King John. It was a manor of 200 acres then and a hall, mill, grange and chapel were built. This was transferred to the Knights Hospitallers in the 1300s and remained with them until the Dissolution and some time after was bought by Brownes of the Mynde, Much Dewchurch. They built a smart new Tudor mansion with turrets and lived there until after the Civil War when they lost their money. It was then sold to Bennet Hoskyns of Moorhampton, Abbeydore in 1654. It remained in the family for 250 years, being passed from father to son, seemingly alternating the names Hungerford and Chandos. All were apparently lawyers, having been Oxford educated, and several were MPs for Hereford. Some were extravagant with money, others married well but somehow they kept going, enlarging the estate to over 1000 acres, rebuilding the house in a fashionable Georgian style in 1787 and rebuilding the chapel twice (latterly in 1840 by Rushforth). They gradually fell further into debt so that finally the estate was put up for auction but did not reach the reserve of £75,000. Much of the estate was then sold off separately but the main part passed to distant family until finally it was sold in 1920 to Campbell who continued the tradition of getting into debt. Guy's Hospital by now owned all the surrounding farms and bought the remaining land from Campbell but he continued in the house which was requisitioned in WW II as a military hospital for St John Ambulance, housing Canadian soldiers. When Campbell died in 1951 his wife finally sold the house to Guy's which, for some inexplicable

reason, put it up for sale when it was bought by a building contractor. He stripped it of all useful materials then gave permission for the house to be used for demolition practice by the Monmouth Royal Engineers Militia. They succeeded on the second attempt in 1959. The site was then sold to an insurance company who later let it out to a company breeding dogs for animal experiments. The chapel and the walled garden and stables were used. After much attention from animal rights groups, this breeding finally finished in the 1990s by which time the whole site, including the Grange, Home Farm and their buildings were more or less derelict. The whole Harewood Estate was sold to the Duchy of Cornwall in 1999. During our walk, which was attended by over 20 people, we saw the results of a large part of the Duchy's eight year plan. The restoration of Grange Farm, Home Farm and their buildings is complete together with the chapel; that of the stables is underway. We saw the site of the old house where plans for a mansion, much smaller than the original, have been passed and building may get underway in 2009. Our walk took us from Redbrook Farm, Hoarwithy in a circular route enabling us to appreciate the most attractive landscape and siting of the buildings, well chosen by previous owners and to be well maintained for posterity by the present ones.

Horticultural Show

The King's Thorn & Little Birch Annual Open Horticultural Show on 6th September was a great success, despite the weather. Of course the gardeners lamented the quality of their produce, but came together to put on a fine display.

59 entrants produced 370 exhibits and the Children's section had even more entries than last year, some of which had been created at the Children's Workshop the previous afternoon.

All of the exhibits attained a high standard, especially Derek Scrivens' Flowering Pot Plant, which was deemed the "Best Exhibit in the Show" by the Judges and won him the David Enoch Cup. Derek also won the Rose Bowl for the most points attained in the Floral Section and the Llewallyn Cup for the family or person with the most points overall.

The Horticultural Shield went to Martin Gallagher for gaining the most points in the Vegetable and Fruit Sections and Mary Hill won the Floral Art Shield. For getting the most points in the Domestic Section Audrey Watkins was presented with the Domestic Cup and the Children's Shield had joint winners, Melissa Peters and

Rebecca Corrigan, for accumulating the most points in the Children's Section.

It was wonderful to see so many visitors to Little Birch Village Hall during the rainy afternoon. A big Thank You goes out to all those organisers, helpers, judges, exhibitors and visitors who made the show such a success.

See you all again next year!

Gillian Clouder – *Show Secretary*

Keeping Kings Thorn safe

I would like to express my concern, not only about speeding but also about the lack of awareness some members of the parish have about road safety, particularly emerging from their driveways. Forge Lane, Wrigglebrook, it would appear is a definite black spot for motorists and pedestrians alike. After reading last month's newsletter about an accident there I heard of another one on that lane occurring in July in which a driver, this time not speeding was hit by a car reversing into them from a hidden driveway. While recognising the fact that some dwellings in Kings thorn have difficult access, it would seem reasonable to suggest that their owners, if they have to reverse out onto a public road, take suitable precautions, or erect some sort of device which would enable them to view the road in both directions. This would, hopefully, ensure the safety of any pedestrians, animals and motorists, young or old who happen to be passing by.

Name and Address Supplied

Hire of Hall (fees update)

From October 2008 the fees for Hire of LBVH Hall have been updated as follows.

Summer (May to September) £7.50

Winter (October to April) £11.00.

Shopmobility

We provide mobility scooters, wheelchairs and powered wheelchairs on a daily hire basis for anyone with permanent or temporary mobility difficulties wishing to visit Hereford, Leominster, Ledbury or Ross-on-Wye. Depending on the area, the service is either free, with a voluntary donation, or there is a small charge.

Please contact:

Hereford 01432 342166

Leominster 01568 616755

Ledbury 01531 636001

Ross-on-Wye 01989 763388

Lift Share

Lucy Godding has just got a new job in Hereford which starts at 7.50am weekdays (except Thursdays) and wondered if anyone travels to Hereford on Saturdays at

that time, or Sundays (when she starts at 8.50am) with whom she could share a lift, whilst contributing to petrol money. Unfortunately, the buses wouldn't get her in on time.

She can be contacted by email at relax_its_not_real_life@hotmail.com

M.B.P.C

Report on the meeting held on Thursday 7th July.

The Clerk reported on the following action items since the last meeting.

The Lengthsman has carried out identified work since the previous meeting, which was to cut around the speed limit signs in the parish, cut back overgrown grass/hedges at the Thorn sign and to cut the grass area at the junction of the A49 bus shelter near the school.

If any further work is identified that is suitable for the parish lengthsman to carry out in the Parish, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Glen Simms has been appointed as Footpaths Officer and the Assistant Footpaths officer is Mo Ross. If you have any concerns regarding a footpath please contact Glen.

Speed Indicator Device Report

The purchase of a SID was discussed, taking into account the unsuccessful grant application and the fact that the unit can only be sited at a particular site for one month in three, and the need for speed data downloads at every move of the unit. The Parish Council agreed not to buy a SID but considered that hiring a unit from Herefordshire Council, who will move the equipment and collect the data at the 4 identified sites, was a more prudent use of parish funds

Finance report

Two cheques were written and signed.

Planning Permissions

DCSW2008/0911/RM - **Sandridge Barrack Hill, Little Birch** - New dwelling in the garden of Sandridge

Meetings

HALC Training dates were noted.

The next Communications Group Meeting is Thursday 9th October at 7.00pm at M.B. Community Hall.

Correspondence.

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

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meet on the first Thursday of each month (excluding August and January) at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Local residents are very welcome to attend and air their views in the Open Discussion period.

Date of next meeting

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER at 7.30pm.

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

Parish Councillors of Much Birch

John Jones - *Chairman*, Dave Davies - *Vice Chairman*, Glen Simms - *Footpaths Officer*, Menna Swift, Vivien Short, Alison Cook

MB Hall Car Park Extension

Thanks to all the hard work by members of the Hall Management Committee and a generous donation from the Parish Council, the proposal to extend the car parking facilities can now go ahead. The work will take into account the aesthetics of the building, drainage and car parking for the disabled.

As most people know we have already achieved smaller projects such as the replacement and relocation of the heating boiler, the upgrading of the insulation in the roof space and redecoration of the cloakrooms.

Future projects to improve the facilities which will demand further fundraising are: the provision of an extension to accommodate bulky items which are at present taking up valuable floor space in the main hall, ramps to improve access to the rear grassed area, and the provision of a covered way to the main entrance of the premises. The Management Committee would welcome assistance from members of the community in raising funds for these developments to the hall, which has provided a venue for events over almost 30 years. Please telephone John, 540980, Lesley 540366 or Bryony: 541274 for further details.

John Jones, *Chairman*

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The September draw took place on Thursday, 11th September in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.00pm

The winners were:

1. No. 11 - Mr. R. Thomas, Kings Thorn.
2. No. 60 - Mr. C. Anderson, Kings Thorn.

The next draw will take place on 16th October at 7.00pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones, *Chairman/Promoter*.

Neighbourhood Watch

Crime Trends

Overnight 4/5th September a burglary occurred at premises at Much Birch, bottles of alcohol, including Champagne were taken.

Overnight 18/19th September a goods vehicle parked at Allensmore had £270 worth of diesel stolen from it.

At 14-20hrs. 20th September a Landrover number WA05UHN was stolen from Orcop. This vehicle has still not been recovered.

Early hours of 20th September catalytic converters were taken off 2 vans parked in Grafton Lane.

Overnight 21st/22nd September a large quantity of cheese was stolen from a Lorry parked in a lay-by at Much Birch.

Overnight 26th September a handbag was stolen from a car parked at Garway Hill.

Between 8.30pm on Monday 15th September and 3.50pm on Tuesday 16th September, a pair of metal gates were stolen from a property in Little Birch. The property is unoccupied and due to be auctioned shortly, the gates were at the entrance to the property and were across the driveway.

Overnight last night between 10pm and 11.30 this morning, a catalytic converter was stolen from a Landrover Discovery parked by the side of the B4348 at Thrupton. Thieves are targeting 4x4 vehicles and vans as they are easy to get underneath, and it takes a couple of minutes to saw the pipes off either side of the converter. If you own a 4x4 or a van, please be extra vigilant and try and park them off the road, making them less of an easy target.

Fear of Crime

Whilst compiling this newsletter, each individual parishes crime reports were checked. Of the 32 parishes in the Hereford Rural South area only half had reported crimes during the month of August. You do live in a low crime area and with your help in reporting anything suspicious we can endeavour to keep it that way.

Special Request

The Division is shortly to embark on a recruitment drive to increase the size of the volunteer Special Constabulary. If you know of anyone 'special' who would have something to offer, in return for "a type of experience you couldn't pay for", then ask them to contact the Recruitment Hotline on 01562 826 027 or just click on www.westmercia.police.uk.

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Changes Afoot

Greater flexibility in response to incidents, together with an enhanced focus on emergent trends and the quality of investigations are just some of the proposed benefits of a shake-up of the Divisional Crime Management Team.

From early September 2008 small teams of detectives, taken from the current core at Hereford, are also to be based at Leominster and Ross Police Stations. They will keep a more local eye on crime in those areas and work directly with their uniformed colleagues, sharing information and targets.

The current Proactive Team, which deals with the majority of drug dealing offences, is to be

merged with the newly-formed ANPR team (see last month's issue), to form an Operations Support Unit, whose role will be to target travelling criminals, drug dealers and other known offenders. They seek to "deny criminals the use of the roads".

The realignment of Local Policing and Response responsibilities at senior management level now sees a Chief Inspector covering all uniformed policing for the Hereford area and another for the Market Towns and Rural.

And on a lighter note....

A Strathclyde sergeant was recently in conversation with a prisoner who was using the opportunity to air a long list of his grievances he had with the world in general. One such issue was that his brother had been stabbed and the perpetrators received a short custodial sentence, having been convicted of the lesser charge of culpable homicide.

Trying to appear concerned the sergeant enquired: "So, is your brother alright now?"

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

Email Newsletter & Alerts

If you would like to receive the West Mercia alerts which are sent two or three times a month to the editor, please let me have your email address and they will be automatically forwarded to you as soon as I get them. If you would also like to receive the Newsletter by email, thereby saving the community a lot of shoe leather collation time, paper and print, you could be put on a separate list to get it as soon as

it is ready. In either case your email address will be private as these alerts and the NL are sent in the 'bcc' box which does not show your address.

Thanks

We would like to extend our thanks to the very generous donation given recently to help with the production of the Newsletter.

Items/Copy

May I have items for the **NOVEMBER** issue via post to :

Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD; or left in the post box at 'Bramleys' or by email attachment in Word format to:

sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk by

* * * * *
18TH OCTOBER
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MURPHY'S PAW

Dog Walking Service

Telephone Trish on 01981 541214

or

07519 643546