

# KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

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

## ***New Rector***

The Church Wardens are pleased to be able to announce the appointment of the new Rector of the Wormelow Hundred Group of Parishes. He is Rev. Mark Johnson, at present Team Vicar in the Hereford South Wye Team Ministry.

The Institution and Induction of the new Rector will take place on **MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at Kings Cagle Church at 7.30pm. Everyone will be welcome at this Service.

Mark and his wife, Lyn, and their three children, Ruth, Esther and Luke, will be living at The Rectory, Much Birch which is situated just behind the Community Hall. We all join together in wishing them happiness in their new life with the seven churches in the Benefice, the Methodist Church in Little Birch and with all their Parishioners.

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## ***Bingo***

The next Bingo will be held on **THURSDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** at 8.00pm. in LBVH. There are special prizes and refreshments will be available.

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## ***M.B. Village Market***

Please support the Village Market in MB Community Hall on **FRIDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** between 2.30pm. and 4.30pm.

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## **DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER 2009**

24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Bingo LBVH  
25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – MB Village Market  
27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Harvest Thanksgiving at Methodist Chapel  
30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Gardening Club Outing  
1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER – MBPC Meeting  
2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER – Village Quiz  
9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Pantomime Initial Meeting  
10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Harvest Supper at Little Birch Village Hall  
11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Harvest Thanksgiving at Little Birch Church  
13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Evergreen Club Outing  
13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – PACT Meeting  
13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Whist Drive LBVH  
17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Flicks in the Sticks  
20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – W.I.  
28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Gardening Club

## **ADVANCE NOTICES**

4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – LBPC Meeting  
6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Halfway Community Theatre  
16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Induction of new Rector, Kings Cagle  
17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – W.I.  
20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Pampered Chef  
21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks  
27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Village Market with a Christmas flavour  
15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – W.I Christmas Evening

## ***Harvest Thanksgiving***

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held at 3.00pm. on **SUNDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** in the Methodist Chapel and at 3.00pm. in Little Birch Church on **SUNDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** Everyone will be most warmly welcomed. Sandwiched in between these two services will be the Harvest Supper at Little Birch Village Hall, see next page.

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## ***Gardening Club***

**WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** is the day the Club will be visiting the Dragon Orchard, home of the

Stainers, to see this year's apple crops and to learn about the different types of apples grown The arrangement is to meet at the Kings Thorn bus stop/carpark at 6.15pm. Visitors are advised to wear flat shoes. For further information contact Helen Fox – 541004 or John Bryant 540316.

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## ***Village Quiz***

Much Birch W.I. will be holding their Annual Village Quiz on **FRIDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.30pm. in MB Community Centre. If your Club or Organisation have not been notified, and you would like to participate

with a team of four, please phone Mrs. Jennifer Jones on 01981 540698.

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### **Pantomime**

The initial meeting will be on **FRIDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.30pm. in LBVH. Hilary Gould will be pleased to meet both adults and children interested in taking part in this year's pantomime. Hilary would also like to hear from people who are willing to assist with all the necessary back stage jobs.

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### **Annual Flu Jab Invitation**

From **8:30am. - 11:30am.** on **SATURDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** and again the following week on **SATURDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** Much Birch Surgery will be giving **Anti Flu Jabs** at Much Birch Community hall. These clinics are for all Much Birch Surgery patients who are over 65 years of age or are at risk from influenza (including patients with asthma and chronic breathing problems, diabetes, heart or kidney disease or impaired immune systems, and those who are carers or who have previously had a flu jab).

Please arrive at Much Birch Surgery Reception to register for the vaccination and receive your ticket which you should present to the nurse or doctor in the Community Hall. When you get to the Hall, it would be helpful if you could remove your coat and wear a short sleeved top, so that the jab can be administered without the need to remove further clothing. **IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL ON THE DAY, please mention this BEFORE having your jab.**

It is important to understand that this vaccination is your annual **seasonal flu jab** and any information on the swine flu vaccination programme will be separately advertised.

*Drs. Davies, Johnson, England and Seftel*

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### **LBVH Harvest Supper**

The Harvest Supper is on **SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.00pm. for 7.30pm.

The Committee of LBVH extend a warm invitation to all members of the community to share a meal together at this annual celebration of harvest.

Entrance: **Adults £6.50**  
**Children under 12, £3.00.**

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### **The Evergreen Club**

Our last outing this year will be on **TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**, when we are going to Westonbirt Arboretum, hoping to catch the autumn colours at their peak.

The cost will be £10 for members and £12 for non-members. This includes entrance to the arboretum.

☎**01981 540932 (or 540683)**

*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

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### **PACT Meetings**

Herefordshire Council and its partners are committed to improving the way they engage with local residents and respond to the priorities and needs of local communities. To do this PACT meetings (Partners and Communities Together) take place at least four times a year and the next one is at MB Village Hall. on **TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 7:00pm. If you want to know what is really going on in your area and have your say, please don't moan and whine at home, attend these meetings and voice your opinions. It is up to residents to make these meetings a success!

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### **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.** in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm. Entry: £1.50. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

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### **Flicks in the Sticks**

**New Season:**

**SATURDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.30pm. — **Morris: A Life With Bells On - 12.**

Starring Derek Jacobi and many other talented British actors, this is a heartwarming feature length comedy that follows the fortunes of one of the leading **Morris** teams in the country. Go to [www.morrismovie.com](http://www.morrismovie.com) for more details and to see a trailer.

**Advance notice**

**Is Anybody There? 12A** will be the film shown next month on **SATURDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm.

Set in 1980s seaside England, this is the story of Edward, an unusual ten year old boy growing up in an old people's home run by his parents. Edward's is a rather lonely existence until he meets Clarence (Michael Caine), a retired magician with a liberating streak of anarchy.

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### **W.I.**

The subject of the meeting on **TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** will be **'Decorative boxes for Christmas'** and the speaker will be Hilary Gamble.

**TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** is the AGM and **15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** is the Member's Christmas Evening.

Meetings take place in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and potential new members are always welcome. For more information please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382, or Jennifer Jones, 01981 540698.

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## ***Gardening Club***

Little Birch and King's Thorn Gardening Club will meet on **WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup>, OCTOBER** when a Panel of Members will give a 'Review of the Season' and try to answer any questions. Everyone welcome!

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## ***M.B. Village Market***

The October market takes place in Much Birch Community Hall on **FRIDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup>** of the month between 2.30pm. and 4.30pm.

There are a few new stalls so please come along to support local producers and makers.

On **FRIDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** we are hoping there will be various stalls selling Christmas gifts, as well as the usual food producers.

For further information please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382

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## ***Halfway Community Theatre***

We are pleased to announce that our next show '**My Favourite Things**' will take place in Much Birch Community Hall on **FRIDAY** and **SATURDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy a few old favourites and a lot of new surprises!!! Tickets are available from Audrey Crowte on 01981 540432 from the beginning of September and, as usual, the cost, to include a hot supper, is £10 a head (£5 for under 14's). Don't forget to bring your own drink and a glass. We look forward to seeing you there.

## ***Pampered Chef Evening***

This is an invitation to all keen cooks and budding chefs to attend a demonstration of high quality kitchen accessories on **FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** in LBVH - a pre Christmas treat for those in charge of the festive menu and lots of ideas for gifts.

Entrance free. Nibbles and drinks will be served!

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## ***Local News***

Congratulations are extended to FRANK SHORT on the occasion of his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday which he celebrated with family and friends and we wish him many more birthdays to come. He says " I am doing my best with the help of friends and taking the right medicine(?).

There have been some excellent results for our young people this year. Here are a few of them.

JAMES FOX has already gone to Plymouth University to study marine biology and JARRED MITTELHOLTZER is off to Aberystwyth to study law. MATTHEW & REBECCA FOX gained four and three 'A' levels respectively and are going to University next year. KATIE BAYNHAM gained five A levels and has qualified to go to Swansea University to study criminology and psychology. HANNAH DYER and DARCEY BAYNHAM both did particularly well in their GCSE's. Darcey has already started at the 6<sup>th</sup> form college in Hereford.

In September, DENNIS and BETTY HANDS of Kings Thorn moved to Cornwall, leaving their house, Mayhill Lodge, which Dennis designed and which was built in the 1960's. Dennis was the architect with Hereford County Council for many years and his pencil drawings of over 150 churches in the County were compiled over a decade of visiting and sketching them with painstaking attention to detail. Members of the erstwhile FORUM will vividly remember Dennis' talk on Rowlestone Barn and New Mills Farm with slides illustrating the external and internal features, which again, he had drawn in immaculate detail. Some of these are published in 'Little Birch on Aconbury Hill', copies of which are still available from members of the History Group.

Dennis loved cricket and for many years was a hard working committee member of Wormelow Cricket Club and was voted

President at the age of 80. In recent years, his mobility was impaired and he gave up driving some 12 months ago. Moving to Cornwall means that Betty and Dennis are now very close to their son and his family. We send our best wishes and hope they will be very happy in their new home.

Mayhill Lodge is now occupied by TESSA and KEVIN BOKOLE and their sons, JO JO (JOSEPH) and PHENYO and we give them all a very warm welcome. Tessa (nee Sklan and erstwhile of Parish Lane) went to Botswana as a volunteer to work for six months with disabled children and then spent another four years setting up a new orphanage for children whose parents had died from Aids. We also welcome SUSAN HOGG to Waterloo Cottage and we hope she will be very happy in her new home.

It is good to report that WIN PIPE is now back at home following an operation and we send our best wishes and prayers for a full and speedy recovery.

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## ***Horticultural Show Report***

The morning of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September was cool and clear when we arrived at Little Birch Village Hall at 8.30am. Busy helpers had set out the many white paper covered tables the previous afternoon while Janet Gwinnett was busy with the Children's Workshop. The bright emptiness would not last, as by 11 o'clock 58 people had displayed 452 exhibits, 82 more than last year, filling the tables to over-flowing.

The largest increase was in the Domestic Section where last year's 58 entries rose to 96. Floral Art almost doubled and with the abundant displays of produce presented a colourful scene.

A note on the Entry Form this year drew people's attention to the fact that the **Llywellyn Sutton Cup** is open to families and this produced a lot of interest giving the whole proceedings a good family feeling. Many, like three generations of the

Humby family, put in a great team effort, including **Peter Humby** winning the coveted 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the **King's Thorn Fruit Cake**. They were only 1 point behind the joint effort of Derek Scrivens and his granddaughter Poppy, but they were all eclipsed by the Father and Daughter team of **Vic Townsend** and **Sue Waldron**.

**Vic Townsend** also won the **Horticultural Shield** impressing us, once again, with his wonderful vegetables.

Last year's winner, Martin Gallagher, decided this year to have a go at the Domestic Section and came very close to our Winner of the **Domestic Cup, Patricia Kelly**.

**The David Enoch Cup** for the Best Exhibit in the Show was won by **Selby Lloyd** for a wonderful vase of Chrysanthemums but **Des Wathen** won the **Rose Bowl** for the Flower Section.

**The Floral Art Shield** was returned to **Mary Hill** for another year and the **Children's Shield** was awarded to 3 year old **Poppy Scrivens** who also won the **Cup for Children** under 8 years. The winner of the **Cup for Children** over 8 years was **Iona Collinson**.

There were no entry fees and no charge to come and see the Show, but the Raffle, run by Derek and Margaret Scrivens, the refreshments, organised by Mike Leigh and Jennifer Jones, and the Auction of Produce at the end, ably conducted by our Chairman, John Bryant, should go some way to fund this community event.

This was another very successful Show and thanks must go to the King's Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club Committee and their helpers for the time and effort involved to stage this popular Show. We also thank all the exhibitors and visitors for making it so worthwhile and look forward to doing it all again next year!

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### ***The Pied Piper Summer Panto***

Mr. Paul Bishop would like to thank all those involved with the Junior Pantomime, especially the parents and to Geoff, Adrienne, Richard and Mike for their backstage work. "I told you those kids were good, didn't I!."

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### ***Walk round Aconbury Woods***

At the beginning of July over 30 people were led on a very informative walk around Aconbury woods by Geraint Richards, Head Forester for the Duchy of Cornwall, and Graham Taylor from Pryor Ricketts, who manages the forestry for the Duchy estates in Herefordshire. We were informed of their plans for the wood in the immediate and long-term future and shown particular areas which illustrated their points.

They told us that their plans for the next five years involve a variety of activities. These include the process of clearing conifers from the sweet chestnut/conifer stands planted in the 1980s and cutting down the sweet chestnuts for the stumps to re-grow as coppice. A few undamaged trees will be left as standards. We were shown the area behind the chapel which has been cleared over the past 2 years and the shoots from the stumps were clearly visible. The remains of the conifers are to be left to decompose slowly, being the most environmentally friendly method for disposing of them. Two other stands of conifer and sweet chestnut are to be dealt with in the same way over the next four years or so. The ultimate aim is to have a proportion of the woodland down to coppice which will be harvested every 20 years or so mainly producing fencing – the benefit of chestnut is that it does not rot so does not need treating. Hazel will also be coppiced, but on a 10 year cycle, to produce such items as wattle fencing. Some of this is being carried out by the Wye Woods Project.

The rest of the woods will continue to be managed by selective felling of hardwoods and softwoods, each tree being assessed for the best time to fell. Healthy trees are being left longer than the usual age of 150 years. The assumption is that healthy trees will produce healthy acorns and these can be harvested, grown on in the nursery then planted in the gaps created when tall enough to out-compete the bracken.

The time for felling is very restricted, usually March/April, in the hope that least damage will be caused to the environment. Horses have been and will be used for hauling timber but they are not always available.

When re-planting takes place, seed from the woods is often used but a mixture of species is planted as this discourages the spread of species-specific diseases.

In order to encourage healthy growth it has been necessary to cull the huge number of squirrels which do untold damage, particularly noticeable on the sweet chestnuts (we were shown several examples) where bark is stripped killing the tree above that level. Squirrels are either shot or trapped, not poisoned. A concerted effort had removed a large proportion of the squirrels but young males have been moving in from surrounding areas so the culling will be ongoing. It is also necessary to cull the deer population as they too strip bark but the idea is to keep their numbers at a sustainable size.

It was made very clear that we are most welcome in the woods – it is a facility for which we are most grateful. We may be able to benefit in the not-too-distant future from wood blocks and charcoal from the Duchy who hope to arrange sale of these locally.

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### ***LBPC***

**Report on LBPC Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.**  
No interests were declared.

Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July were read and signed as a true record.

**Matters Arising** from previous minutes: Little Birch Parish Council Chairman informally spoke to Much Birch Parish Council Chairman concerning the Communications Group and the outstanding newsletter payments. At the same time he expressed LBPC's full support for the newsletter. The Parish Freighter was deemed a success with many residents making use of this facility. Future costs of this service are expected to rise considerably during the next financial year and must be budgeted for within the next precept.

**Village Hall** – To comply with the Charities Commission, LBVH Committee members were declared trustees of the Village Hall with LBPC as custodial trustees. It was agreed that LBPC must keep copies of all legal paperwork concerning the Village Hall. Current fund raising events were discussed.

**Parish Lengthsman** – Invoice received for work completed.

**Parish Initiative** – An unsatisfactory response was received from Herefordshire Council concerning a recently inspected wall. Clerk to contact Herefordshire Council and inform resident.

**Parish Field** – Tree works to start mid September.

**HALC** – Report on Southern Area meeting – It was agreed that Mr. Morley would continue representing the Parish Council at these meetings and give feedback.

**Financial Report** – Two cheques were written

**Correspondence** – A detailed list of all correspondence was given to the Parish Council and noted with any responses detailed under 'Any Other Business'.

### **Planning**

**Permission** – Lynwood – proposed new house (revised scheme to planning permission DCSW2006/3042F repositioning of some external openings – DCSW0009/1249F.

Application – Bromley Court, Hoarwithy – New porch and verandah to south east elevation and removal of existing porch required – DCSW0009/1602/F. Paperwork to be returned with no objections.

### **Any Other Business**

CSO Fiona Witcher reported no crime for the parish.

Clerk to contact residents concerning highway obstructions.

**Date of Next Meeting** – **WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

### **Parish Clerk**

Please contact the Parish Clerk, Liz Callwood ☎ 540081 or [lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk) with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish.

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### **MBPC**

#### **Report on MBPC Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> July Lengthsman's work**

Grass cutting will continue in identified areas of the parish.

#### **Grit Bins**

MBPC has arranged a visit with HFDC Highways to look at providing more grit bins in the parish. It was stated by the PC that the Grit bins are provided by HFDC and are topped up at intervals throughout the year. They are for the purpose of gritting minor roads and **NOT** for parishioners own use to grit their driveways.

#### **Footpaths Report**

A good start has been made on inspecting the condition of footpaths. This is an ongoing process that will take many more months to complete. An accurate survey is the aim.

The PC has applied to join the Parish Path Partnership Scheme which offers an opportunity for community involvement in safeguarding the future of our footpaths. The role of volunteers is important and there is a small group of parishioners who are helping. It is important to bear in mind that any footpaths and bridleways created before 1949 which are not recorded on the Definitive Map by

2026 will be lost for ever. One path has already been identified. If anyone knows of others please let us know. Also, it would be most appreciated if all walkers who encounter problems on their walks would report them to the Footpaths Officer.

See full report on website The Footpaths officer is Cllr. Glen Sims ☎ 01981 540052 in the evenings.

### **Planning Applications**

Application for comment:

DCSW0009/1249/F – **Lynwood, Wrigglebrook, Kings Thorn** – Proposed new house – revised scheme to planning permission DCSW/2006/3042/F – repositioning of some external openings. Application Type: Full.

Application Supported.

DCSW2009/1313/F – **Owaissa Kings Thorn** – Two Story extension and conservatory with veranda. Application Type – Full.

Application Supported.

### **Planning Applications commented on at Extraordinary meeting on 13/08/09**

DCSW0009/1617/F – Removal of condition 13 of approved planning application DCSW2009/0091/F

The seven existing poultry units as identified on the approved plan and associated equipment including silos shall be demolished together with the removal of all concrete bases.

Application unsupported. Clerk to send a letter to Herefordshire Council Planning outlining the reasons why it is unsupported.

DCSW0009/1611/F – **Minster Farm Much Birch** – Steel framed agricultural building clad with green sheeting and new access track. Application Type: Full. Application Supported

### **Parish Freighter**

The Parish Freighter has been booked for **SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER** at two sites.

Car Park area at Kings Thorn Bus Stop between 11.00am. & 1.00pm.

Tump Lane between 2.00pm. & 4.00pm.

### ***Kings Thorn Telephone Kiosk***

BT has written to the Parish Council offering adoption of this kiosk for £1.00. The PC is keen to find out how MB parishioners feel about adopting this kiosk. Please write to the Parish Clerk or contact a Parish Councillor to give your views.

### ***Correspondence.***

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

### ***Date of Next Meeting***

**THURSDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.30pm. in MB Community Centre. Local residents are very welcome to attend and air their views in the Open Discussion.

### ***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. The full minutes of the July meeting on 2/7/2009 are on our website, [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk)

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### ***Neighbourhood Watch***

#### ***Crime Trends in August***

A bike that was against a hedge on **Low Lane, Much Dewchurch** was taken on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 and 12:00. It is a sporty looking bike black and yellow in colour. It is possible that someone may have picked it up for safe keeping. Does anyone remember seeing this bike or seeing anyone in possession of it?

A property in **Dinedor** was burgled around the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>. The owners of the property were away on holiday. If anyone is going away or knows of anyone going away feel free to let us know so we can help keep an eye on the property.

Some scrap metal was stolen in **Little Birch** on the 19<sup>th</sup> between 12:30-18:00. This is just a reminder to keep any scrap out of sight or locked away. Please try to keep gates shut/locked if possible it all helps as a deterrent.

Large amounts of fly tipping have been reported in the last few days!

At this time of year Fly tipping is a problem. If anybody see's anybody possibly fly tipping or acting suspiciously please report it to us. A registration number from vehicles is always very helpful.

A member of the public came across 2 people breaking into their garage in the **Garway Hill** area. After the offenders were disturbed they ran off across fields to a vehicle similar to YX51\*\*F. If you ever find yourself in a similar position please call 999 straight away and again vehicle registrations are very helpful. Enquiries are ongoing.

A hay turner worth £3,000 was stolen from a field between **Dinedor** and **Holme Lacy** overnight on Fri 21st/Sat 22nd August. It was a Vicon HS360 model, mostly red in colour but with some black.

Over the weekend the Village Hall at **Orcop** was broken into. The suspects gained entry by forcing a window, and then broke into the electricity meter, which was empty at the time. Nothing appears to have been stolen from the premises.

### ***September***

Overnight on 10th/11th September, a crate of woodworking tools valued at over £1000 were stolen from a workshop at a house in **Kings Thorn**. Also a green John Deere Quad bike and a 14ft Ifor Williams trailer were stolen from a farm in **Pontrilas**. The items were not secured in any way, which made it an easy night's work for the suspects. The following night a Ford Transit van was stolen from a garage premises in **Much Birch**, and was found burnt out in Gwent the same day. Again at night a vehicle was entered in **Much Dewchurch**, and a flashing beacon was stolen, as well as five litres of diesel.

A white/orange 110 mini digger was stolen from a farm in **Clehonger**, believed on the back of a trailer that was also stolen from the farm, and was used sometime during the night to attempt to remove a vehicle from woodland between **Little Birch** and **Little Dewchurch**. The attempt failed,

and the vehicle, a Ford Maverick, was set alight at aprox. 7.00am. the following day. The digger was unloaded from the back of the trailer at the side of the road near **Little Birch** - just down from the Caldicott Crossroads, and later put back on the trailer in the same place. The digger had a tracking device attached, and we have now just found the vehicle in woodland nearby, still with the trailer, possibly waiting to be collected! It shows that it is worth fitting tracking devices to farm and plant machinery, as well as marking them with SmartWater. We are hoping that someone saw this digger at some point during the journey - if so, please get in touch asap.

Throughout the county we are experiencing a number of thefts of farm machinery and equipment - please ensure that these items are secured, preferably locked away, and also marked in some way or another - SmartWater is an excellent product which can be used.

Another reminder that if you call one of our mobiles and there is no answer/no signal please call the 03003333000 number to report the incident as it could then be passed to us via our control system.

Thieves are using large vehicles, probably with hiab lifts on the back, to steal these items, and often the thefts are occurring during daylight hours. These people are brazen, and will go into fields and steal trailers, equipment etc in broad daylight - it is because they are so brazen about it that they get away with it - any witnesses assume they are legitimate! Please be suspicious of any vehicles like this seen in our rural lanes, and take registration numbers if possible and pass them to us so that we can make some enquiries. We can soon establish whether or not they are genuine.

**Herefordshire Crime Prevention Panel** is looking for new members - can you help?

The Panel is an independent body which was formed 21 years ago with

over 20 members from many sectors of the community.

It aims to encourage greater public participation in the prevention and solution of crime, and the panel works closely with the police to this end. The panel have provided funding over the years for literature on bogus callers, personal safety and security of belongings in motor vehicles, as well as crime prevention devices such as shed bars and panic alarms.

They played a large part for many years in 'Crucial Crew' which is an annual event run for all primary school pupils in the county, teaching youngsters many aspects of personal safety.

More recently, the panel have worked with us and Smartwater, and those of you who have purchased this product will recall writing your cheques to the panel!

Now, sadly, there are only six members left on the panel, and in order for it to continue its valuable work, they are looking for 'fresh blood', which is why I am including this item in our bulletin in the hope that some of you out there can spare a few hours for this worthy cause. If you'd like to know more, please get in touch.

#### ***Internet Safety Talks***

Were given last week. If any parents have concerns about internet safety and their children, please contact the police for

information.

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**

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#### **Officers based at Peterchurch Local Police Officer**

**PC Andrew Bundy.**

**Mobile No: 07855 385 844**

**Email:**

**[andrew.bundy@westmercia.p](mailto:andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)**

**[nn.police.uk](http://nn.police.uk)**

#### **Community Support Officers**

**CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher.**

**Mobile No: 07779 141 232**

**Email:**

**[fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.p](mailto:fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)**

**[olice.uk](http://olice.uk)**

**CSO 6993 Kevin Powell.**

**Mobile No: 07779 141 232**

**Email:**

**[kevin.powell.c6993@westmercia](mailto:kevin.powell.c6993@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)**

**[.pnn.police.uk](http://.pnn.police.uk)**

#### **Response Policing**

**PC Roger Bradley**

**Email:**

**[roger.bradley@westmercia.pnn.p](mailto:roger.bradley@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)**

**[olice.uk](http://olice.uk)**

#### **Hereford Rural South Email**

**[herefordruralsouth.lpt@westmer](mailto:herefordruralsouth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)**

**[cia.pnn.police.uk](http://cia.pnn.police.uk)**

**Hereford Rural South Answer  
phone**

**01432 346756**

**Non-Emergency phone**

**08457 444 888**

**Emergency phone 999**

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#### ***Your Local Representatives***

**East -**

**JOHN BULBECK 540178**

**Central -**

**BOB PETERS 540670**

**West -**

**BETTY PHILPOTT 540614**

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#### ***Items/Copy***

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF  
DATE.**

Please may I have items for the **NOVEMBER** issue via email attachment in Word format to: [semathews@btinternet.com](mailto:semathews@btinternet.com) or by hand or post to Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD by no later than

\* \* \* \* \*

**16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

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### **LOCAL BUS 411 - Wednesdays only**

The 411 bus to Hereford operates on Wednesday mornings, returning at lunchtime. From Wormelow it runs via Much Birch, Kings Thorn Road, Little Birch Road, New Road, Pendant Pitch, Barrack Hill, The Thorn and Kings Thorn bus shelter. It can be hailed at any suitable point along its route through the area.

10.06 Wormelow, Tump Inn  
10.07 Wormelow, Tump Lane  
10.12 Little Birch, Castle Inn  
10.18 Kings Thorn, Bus shelter  
10.31 Hereford, Bridge Street  
10.38 Hereford, Country Bus Station

13.20 Hereford, Country Bus Station  
13.28 Hereford, Broad Street  
13.41 Kings Thorn, Bus shelter  
13.46 Little Birch, Castle Inn  
13.51 Wormelow, Tump Lane  
13.52 Wormelow, Tump Inn

These are the officially published times, but the bus can run up to 15 minutes early. Note that on its return journey the bus stops by request only – tell the driver where you want to alight. The service is subsidised by Herefordshire Council.