

# KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

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

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

celebrates its 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday in September. The next market is on **28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST** and the following one on **25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. in the Community Hall.

The market was set up to benefit the community, by making available locally produced food, and to show our support for local producers.

There is something to tempt most palates, from rare breed Dexter beef (also homemade pies and ready meals) and Old Spot and Tamworth pork (lovely sausages, even a Gluten free variety, if ordered, and pork burgers), to fresh chicken, and a selection of seasonal meat eg. Venison. A variety of freshly baked breads, preserves and chutney are also available, as are fine traditional Welsh cheeses.

If you like to grow your own herbs there is wide variety of herb plants, both the common and the not-so-common. There is also a Fair Trade stand and a local craft stand. Refreshments are provided and sold in aid of McMillan Cancer Support.

**If you are free, please join us in our support of local producers.**

For more information about the market, or if you would like to book a stall, please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382

## ***Parish Freighter***

On **SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST** from 11.00am. – 1.00pm. Little Birch Parish Council have arranged for the Parish Freighter to be parked at Little Birch Village Hall Car Park

## DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

- 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST – Much Birch Village Market
- 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST – Parish Freighter
- 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER – LBPC Meeting
- 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Children's Workshop
- 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Annual Horticultural Show
- 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Evergreen Club Outing
- 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Whist Drive
- 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Llanwarne Ploughing Match & Sheepdog Trials
- 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Pantomime – “A Plague of Rats”
- 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – LBVH Dog Show
- 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – W.I.
- 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks
- 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER – Kilpeck Art Club
- 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Bingo Little Birch Village Hall
- 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

## ADVANCE NOTICES

- 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 – PACT Meeting
- 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Flicks in the Sticks
- 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – W.I.
- 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Halfway Community Theatre

## ***Annual Horticultural Show***

On **SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**, the Annual Show will take place in LB Village Hall.

On **FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**, there will be a children's workshop conducted by Janet Gwinnett on Show schedules will be attached to the Newsletter and will also be placed in the Castle Inn, the Axe and Cleaver and the Surgery.

## ***The Evergreen Club***

On **TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** we are going to Hanbury Hall (National Trust) for the afternoon where the catering facilities are limited in

size, so we will lunch at Droitwich Spa on the way.

The cost is £12.30 for members, £14.30 for non-members (less £6.30 for any member of The National Trust). 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*

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** at Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee is £1.50. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

### *Llanwarne Ploughing Match*

This and the Sheepdog Trials will take place at Priory Farm, Goodrich nr. Ross-on-Wye on **SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**. Access is off the A40 and B4234 – Lydbrook Road. It is a beautiful setting between the Wye and Goodrich Castle. The day will include Horticultural, Domestic and Handicraft classes. Ploughing starts at 10.00am.

### *LBVH Summer Pantomime*

#### **“A Plague of Rats”**

(based on the Pied Piper)

**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Families, friends and visitors are invited to join in an evening of fun and enjoyment at Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**Entrance:** Adults                   **£5.00**  
Children (14 and under)       **£3.00**

### *LBVH Dog Show*

On **SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**, Little Birch Village Hall will be hosting a Dog Show. Entries will be taken from 1.00pm. All Dog lovers and fanciers are asked to keep this date free for what promises to be a very special and enjoyable day.

There will be a Companion Dog Show with Kennel Club Judge, Mrs Ruth Walker, four Pedigree classes and twelve Novelty classes. Further information from Jackie Morley on 541027 and Robyn Hodges 540264

### *WI*

Meetings take place in Much Birch Community Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. On **TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** the speaker will be Esther

Simpson, whose subject is ‘Edwardian Hats with Flowers’.

On **20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** Hilary Gamble will speak about Decorative Boxes for Christmas’.

If you would like to know more about our meetings, or about joining WI (you will find us a very friendly group!) please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382 or Jennifer Jones, 01981 540698.

### *Flicks in the Sticks*

**New Season:**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** at 7.30pm. — **THE READER 15**

We open the season with an Oscar winning performance from Kate Winslet. Set in post-WWII Germany, nearly a decade after his affair with an older woman came to a mysterious end, law student Michael Berg re-encounters his former lover as she defends herself in a war-crime trial.

Tickets £4 (£3 under 16s). Tickets available in advance or on the door – for further info or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly 01981 541274. Refreshments served from 7.00pm.

**Advance Notice:** **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.

### *Kilpeck Art Club*

The club is pleased to announce that its Autumn Term will run for 10 consecutive Mondays from **21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER** to **23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER** inclusive. Meetings are 2.00pm. – 4.00pm at Kilpeck Village Hall.

This is your local, long-established art club that offers a friendly atmosphere for anyone who enjoys painting or drawing in company with others. There is a wide range of skills and interests in different media and help and advice is freely exchanged.

New members are most welcome and for more Information please phone: (01981) Michael – 541055 or Sylvia 540123 .

### *Bingo*

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

### *Harvest Thanksgiving*

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held at the Methodist Chapel on **SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** at 3.00pm. and at Little Birch Church on **SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 3.00pm. Everyone will be most warmly welcomed.

### *Gardening Club*

On **WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** the club will be visiting the Dragon Orchard, home of the Stainers to see this year’s apple crops and 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.

### *Village Quiz*

Much Birch W.I. will be holding their Annual Village Quiz on **FRIDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.30 p.m. in Much Birch Community Centre. If your Club or Organisation has not been notified, and you would like to participate with a team of four, please phone Mrs. Jennifer Jones on 01981 540698.

### *Pantomime*

The initial meeting will be at 7.30pm. on **FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 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.

### *LBVH Harvest Supper*

More news in next month’s Newsletter about the Supper on **SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**.

## ***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 **TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at Much Birch Village Hall 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!

---

## ***Halfway Community Theatre***

We are pleased to announce that our next show 'MY FAVOURITE THINGS' will take place at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall on **FRIDAY and SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.** 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.

---

## ***Bingo***

Due to holidays, there will be no Bingo evenings in July and August. The next Bingo will be held be **THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** at 8.00pm in Little Birch Village Hall. There are special prizes and refreshments will be available.

---

## ***Local News***

MORGAN DAVIES, daughter of Dr. Michael and Mara, has graduated with Honours in Medicine at Bristol University while brother, LLEWELLYN, graduated at Cardiff with a degree in Pharmacy. At the same time, TOBY DINNEN, younger son of Dr. John and Rev.

Judy, has also gained his degree in Medicine at Nottingham University and we congratulate all three in their excellent achievements. 'A' level results will not be known at the time of printing but hopefully, they can be included in the next Newsletter.

Congratulations are also extended to WILLIAM WHITE of Brookhurst, Lower Wrigglebrook who has successfully auditioned against stiff opposition to join the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Orchestra. William will have two separate weeks of intensive training culminating in concerts under the baton of world renowned orchestral conductors. MICHAEL WHITE, WILLIAM and sister LEAH all play the clarinet in the Bromyard Wind Band and, at the age of 12, Leah has already passed grade 7. We will undoubtedly hear of more progress in the near future.

Congratulations are also sent to BECKY (nee Caton) and JAMES WRIGHT on the birth of their daughter, ERIN JANE, who eventually was delivered on 31<sup>st</sup> July and weighed in at 7lb. 3oz. It is good to report that the grandparents have also recovered from the ordeal and Jenny and John are very proud grandparents again. Leon & Sandra Slater at Wood Corner, Kings Thorn, are celebrating the birth of their second grandchild, a baby boy, ZAC SLATER who was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> June at Queen Mary's hospital in Sidcup, Kent - a beautiful son for LEE and VANESSA and a brother to INDIA. They are very well and are looking forward to visiting Kings Thorn.

Sadly, but peacefully, EILEEN MARY LEWIS, erstwhile of Mill Cottage, Kings Thorn, passed away at the end of June and Much Birch Church was full of family and friends for a Memorial Service on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Eileen was born in London into a very musical family but against her parent's wishes, took up a nursing career. Her fiancée was unfortunately killed in WWII

and after some time, Eileen married his best friend. In due time, Eryl was born and she in turn gave birth to Jenny and Lucy. Eryl is a fine musician and continues to play with several orchestras as well as teaching music in schools. The whole family moved to Mill Cottage in the 1980's and Jenny and Lucy attended local schools.

Eileen was always a very busy person and was a great help to many friends in the community. She worshipped at Much Birch Church and was a very active member on the flower rota for many years, as well as a member of the Mother's Union at Much Dewchurch. Eileen thoroughly enjoyed flower arranging and gardening and had had tuition from very well known teachers in and around London. Locally, she was a member of both Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club and also the Much Dewchurch Club, serving on both club committees for a long time. Eileen visited virtually all the local garden centres and many more further afield, always filling her car with choice plants and shrubs and fitting in her passengers as best she could. Her gardens at Mill Cottage and later at Grosmont Grove, were full of wonderful plants, expertly arranged.

Eileen was very involved with the Old Tyme dancing afternoons at Little Birch Hall where a dozen or so older folk from villages all around enjoyed dancing to the music of the war years, the 50's and 60's. Birthdays in the group were always celebrated in style with a birthday tea and cake or a meal together. Her social life also included the Evergreen Club and the Over 60's at Little Dewchurch and she lunched at least twice a week with Elizabeth Dyke, Polly Perkins and others, but always on Wednesdays at the Axe and Cleaver. Eileen had a real gift for making and keeping friends. The group of nurses with whom she trained and worked with in London during the war, kept in touch and met up every few years in various

parts of the country. The last meeting was in Cardiff some four years ago and the journey home was fraught with dense fog. However, she decided to follow a large lorry along the M4 trusting that it would get her to the junction of the A449 and an easier drive home through Monmouth. she enjoyed driving and generously transported her friends to all these social gatherings.

She also loved lace-making and joined two classes at Usk and Abergavenny. This was mentioned in conversation one day with Alwyn Bulbeck and so began a long and close friendship as Alwyn had also started lace-making some years earlier in Wales. They travelled together to the classes each week with Eileen driving in the early years and later with Alwyn driving when Eileen's fingers became badly affected with arthritis. Eileen sought out the best instructors while in London and usually took on the most intricate and difficult lace forms, which again demonstrated her determination and perseverance to achieve high standards in whatever she did.

Her family was her greatest treasure in life and she was very proud of all their academic and musical achievements. Grand daughter, Jenny, is a superb athlete, excelling in long distance running, swimming and cycling. The marriage of Jenny and Justin was a real highlight for Eileen and the radiant photograph of her in her wedding outfit was used on the front cover of the Memorial Service sheet. She loved to hear of grand daughter, Lucy's adventurous travels in Tasmania and Australia and was very excited when shown photographs of these exploits.

After her heart attack and several operations, she spent eight months in hospital fighting off many infections but determined to get back to her bungalow and resume her social life and activities. Sadly, this was not to be and she gradually got weaker but was very

well looked after by the family and team of carers. A few days before she died, Eryl took Eileen to see Olivet Lewis, who was convalescing in 'Hillside' and although too weak to speak she communicated her love through her hands. She will be greatly missed by her family and a very wide circle of friends and we extend to all the family our deepest sympathy in their loss.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of JOHN MELVILLE LANGFORD, known to most people as Jack, took place on 17<sup>th</sup> July and was conducted by Rev. Tony Kelk. Jack died on 8<sup>th</sup> July, at the age of 91 years. He was born in 1918 at Wellington, where both his father's and mother's parents also lived and farmed. At the age of two, his parents moved to a smallholding at Westbrook, near Hay on Wye and with his brother, Arthur and sister, Dorothy enjoyed an idyllic childhood in the wealth of the surrounding countryside near the river Wye and Merbach Hill. The walk to school was two miles each way but was enjoyed in the company of his siblings and several other local children.

The family moved to The Grove at Bullinghope when Jack was 13 and at this age he left school, as money was not available for further education. However, he was very good at mental arithmetic, which stood him in good stead throughout his life. When the family moved to Grafton Villa, Jack met Peggy Millichamp and they married in 1946 when he was aged twenty-nine and soon they had a young family when Richard and Rosalind were born. Many family activities were enjoyed including gymkhanas, ploughing matches, picnics on the Black Mountains and outings to point-to-point races.

He loved horseracing throughout his life and travelled with his brother-in-law, George Meredith, to Ascot, Epsom and Cheltenham as well as to Hereford Races. He enjoyed fishing trips with friends, especially to Salcombe, returning

home with loads of mackerel, and to the Smithfield Show in London each December, which was celebrated with festive cheer. He once made a wager at the Farmer's Club in Hereford as to what was the shortest time it would take to drive to the Regent's Palace Hotel in central London. He set off in his Ford Pilot, with George Meredith as witness, making the journey in less time than he had wagered. He prided himself on his driving skills but for the passengers it was often a terrifying experience! He drove in all the counties of England often to farm auctions or to pick up farm machinery parts. In recent years, the pace of his driving slowed considerably and he agreed with the tips on eco-driving which Rosalind had given him, saying that he now drove at slower speeds, braked more gently and changed gear more appropriately.

Jack was a great socialiser for much of his life and he had a passion for ballroom dancing, at which he excelled. He also had a good singing voice and admired many of the great tenors. Being a poor sleeper in his later years, he would often sing through the small hours.

When he took on the farm at Norton Brook in 1946, he gradually moved away from using Shire Horses and traditional farming techniques with which he grew up and adopted mechanisation and modern farming approaches leading to increased crop yields. He loved the livestock, keeping sheep and cattle for many years, finally settling with a pedigree Hereford herd. He studied the breeding lines and liked to show the cattle in Hereford.

Jack and Peggy 'retired' in 1984 and moved to 'Copper Beeches', that lovely house on the Callow. In 1986, they were ready to take up another challenge and bought Church Farm, Little Birch when the Bowen family gave up their milking herd and moved to Anglesey. They worked incredibly hard together transforming their new home and

he fed the cattle in winter into his late eighties, dug a 6-foot deep trench across the yard for a water pipe to be laid up to the field to a cattle trough and meticulously constructed and hung, with the help of a front-end loader, the huge corrugated iron doors, which moved effortlessly across the entrance to the large barn.

Peggy and Jack loved the birds and wildlife at Church Farm, where they also constructed a pond and the binoculars were always to hand near the window. Together they lived a simple life and Peggy was a good gardener, keeping them more or less self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables and with the poultry, an ample supply of eggs. She was also an excellent cook. She attended the Church regularly, cleaned and provided flowers as per the rota and baked cakes for teas in the Church, never seeking the limelight but always getting on with the job in hand in her own quiet way. Sadly, Peggy died in 2001 and although a farmer rather than a gardener, Jack continued in the garden, doing all that Peggy had previously done and was glad to share the produce with the family. He continued to bottle the fruit from the trees they had planted together and was especially proud of the peaches, being very pleased that, under his direction, grandsons Jamie and Alan, maypoled the tree to prevent the branches breaking with this year's bumper crop. This took place a few weeks before his death.

Jack celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last year with all the family of whom he was very proud and would spend hours with the grandchildren discussing their latest experiences and sporting achievements and was thrilled to become a great grandfather recently. He was a very independent man, worked hard up to the last few months, cooked for himself and dressed himself smartly. He kept his mind alert by doing the Telegraph crosswords

and Sudoku puzzles as he had always done with Peggy over the years. Despite two heart attacks in 1955 and 2001, he never gave up, believed in hard work and kept a very upright posture. Richard and Jo and their family have given him great support in their daily visits and Rosalind too whenever she and her family were able to journey over from Devizes. Jack will be sadly missed by the family and many friends and we send them our sincere sympathies in their loss.

The family have asked that, through the Newsletter, their sincere thanks is recorded to all for the cards and messages of sympathy, attendance at the memorial service and the donations in memory of Jack for St. Michael's Hospice, which to date have exceeded well over £400.

The whole community was shocked on 28<sup>th</sup> July to hear of the sudden death of ALISON ANDERSON, at the age of 66 years. Alison Margaret Riddihough was born on the South Devon coast towards the end of WWII. and had two brothers, Robin and Nicholas. She always had a sunny smile and possessed what was known as a 'placid' disposition. Robin remembers quite vividly a bad fall in the kitchen, which she suffered when she was three or four years of age. From then on, she experienced thirst, comas, fits and hallucinations, which finally resulted in the diagnosis of diabetes. Those were the early days in the treatment of childhood diabetes and her mother had to quickly learn to give her daily injections and to start her on a strict diet. The ritual of measuring her blood sugar levels with test tubes, a Bunsen burner and complicated colour charts was all part of family life.

Looking back, Robin reflected that the psychological effect of these restrictions on a child of Alison's age must have been horrendous – never to be able to eat in the same way as other children, to be prodded with a needle everyday and denied sweets and treats for

reasons beyond her understanding. Perhaps because of the disciplined childhood that she endured, Alison developed her fighting spirit and will to survive. To this endless battle, she brought an inner calm and fierce determination that remained with her all her life.

She was always a happy child, content to sit on the nearby beach, splashing and giggling whilst her brothers energetically rushed around collecting caterpillars, and pleading for rides on boats. Her love of animals developed early on despite a memorable episode in a tea-room in the Cotswolds when a small dog bit her savagely for no apparent reason. It was about that time that she delivered her most famous public speech on seeing a picture of the Royal Family –: "Mummy, Mummy, look at all those people waiting for a bus".

Alison's lifelong love of horses began about the age of ten, when her closest friend, Rosemary, was given a pony. From then on, she could be found enthusiastically mucking out, grooming and generally getting involved at any neighbourhood stable. This led through the years to her becoming a dedicated and skilled horsewoman riding with a number of Hunts and participating in Horse Shows whenever she could. A bit of her mother's passion for theatre brushed off with appearances on horseback in re-enactments of historical events, Robin recalling that she once convincingly played Friar Tuck.

Caring for others was the key to Alison's character and she applied that care generously but firmly to both people and animals. Colin and Alison were married in 1968 and they raised three fine sons, Dominic, Tony and Simon, bred innumerable dogs (she once was a judge at Crufts) and kept a goat. She was a familiar sight as she rode her horse, Prince, around all the local lanes and in the woods. She helped with the mini-Agricultural Shows that ran in Little Birch for some eight years from

1978 and was involved with the production side of the Village Pantomime with Margaret Stevens and Anne Thomas, teaching the children to dance and mime.

She worked at the Newstead Nursing Home in Hereford as a geriatric nurse and gave nursing care to the residents of the Old House just down from the Monmouth Turn on the Callow (later called High Meadows) with Virgil Lay. She was one of the first to have an insulin pump permanently attached to her body and she gave lectures to other diabetics and their parents on the early challenges before the invention of portable blood sugar monitoring equipment and insulin pumps. Her achievement in living as a full diabetic beyond 60 years was recognised with a medal from the Diabetic Society. When her parents became ill in their Devon home, Alison courageously travelled on her own by train to visit them whenever it was possible. Over the past four years or so, life was not easy for her as she developed circulation problems in her leg and had to endure a 3<sup>rd</sup> operation after the scars of the first two became infected with resistant bacteria.

She was a remarkable person with a fundamental good nature and friendly disposition. These were coupled with a steady and calm determination to overcome difficulties and challenges of a kind that few of us can even imagine. If she had moments of despair and self-pity, they seldom showed as her good humour, kindness and thought for others continued to the end. Colin has given Alison the utmost help and care, particularly over the last five years and took her out to lunch every day, which got her away from the cottage and the chore of preparing a meal. When she could drive or walk she attended Little Birch Church but in recent years, she found getting into the Church too difficult and so Colin took her to Much Birch Church for Evensong once a month.

She joined the knitting circle at Much Birch and to the end, she remembered all the family birthdays and painted or knitted little gifts and cards for the growing group of her grandchildren, grand nephews and nieces, most of whom she had never met as they lived abroad. She delighted in Dominic's son, Jacob, and every effort was made to meet up when Dominic was home on leave.

Robin said that he was fortunate enough to speak to Alison by telephone from his home in Canada, the night before she died. She was not feeling well due to a chest infection but thought that she would be better in a few days with some new pills and agreed they would talk again in three days. In her mind, she was experiencing a minor set-back that would be overcome, just as she had overcome so many set-backs so many times before.

Alison's funeral service took place at Hereford Crematorium and was conducted by Rev. Elaine Goddard of St. Weonards. There are two delightful photographs of her in obviously happy times on the front of the service sheet. The service was attended by all those in the neighbourhood who knew her as well as by the immediate family and her brother, Nicholas, who is a member of the Hare Krishna faith and who in a senior capacity, travels all over the world. We send to Colin, Dominic, Tony, Simon and the wider family our deepest sympathies. Donations were given to the 'Insulin Dependent Diabetic Trust' which was obviously a charity close to Alison's heart.

It is also sad to report the sudden death of AMY MORRIS who lived in Tump Lane and condolences are sent to her family.

The death has also occurred of PERCY BRISTOW, who was the local policeman in the late 1950's and the first to occupy the Police House next to the Village Hall and now known as Ross View. He was of the old fashioned school who,

when he caught youngsters up to misdemeanours gave them a 'clip round the ear' and sent them packing. He was 92 and until recent years enjoyed singing in the Hereford Police and Rail Male Choirs.

---

### **Lost**

Two items have been found and are awaiting claimants. The first is a roll of musical tapes found on the road near Castle Nibole leading towards the Castle Inn. The second is a book of 'Star Wars' postcards, found on the road at Kings Thorn. Please phone John Bryant on 01981 540316.

---

### **Dog Fouling**

A number of complaints of dog fouling on the verges outside residents' homes have been made. It is against the law for dog owners not to clear up any mess and anyone seen to be failing to do this will be reported to the local police.

---

### **LBPC AGM & Meeting – 01/07.**

No interests were declared. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2009 were read and signed as a true record.

#### **Matters Arising**

Lynda Wilcox gave a presentation on the advantages of joining HALC followed by a Q&A session.

**Village Hall** – Guttering and down pipes have been replaced. New projects currently in discussion include roof insulation, cavity wall insulation and the refurbishment of the gent's toilet. A guided walk around Aconbury Woods has been arranged for 6th July 2009 at 6:30pm.

**Parish Lengthsman Scheme** – A list of work was compiled and agreed for the lengthsman for the 2009/10 financial year.

**Parish Initiative** – All defects have been reported to Herefordshire Council and reference numbers received.

**Parish Field** – A second quote has been received and the Parish Council have agreed for work to be completed.

**Report on May PACT meeting** – Clerk asked to place an article in the next newsletter promoting these meetings.

**Affordable Housing Survey** – The results of the survey show Little Birch's need of four homes, all to be located in Little Dewchurch. Little Birch Parish Council acknowledge the contents of the results report but wish to inform Herefordshire Council of their preferred location of Little Birch.

**Financial Report** – Four 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**

Notification received from Herefordshire Council of an appeal made to the Secretary of State against the refused planning permission for **The Crickets Croft** Retrospective application for ancillary accommodation for elderly parents.

Comments required on a **Planning Application** for **Lynwood**, for proposed new house returned with no objections.

**Planning permission** granted to **Daneswood** for proposed extension and alterations to house with additional parking and improved road access.

### **Any Other Business**

CSO Fiona Witcher reported no crime for the parish.

After the HALC presentation, Little Birch Parish Council agreed to re-subscribe to HALC for 2009/10.

Chairman to contact MBPC Chairman to discuss informally newsletter contributions and proposed Communications Committee.

A pothole has been identified on the main road into Kings Thorn and Clerk to report to Herefordshire Council.

**Date of Next Meeting** – **WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER**

*Parish Clerk*

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little

Birch Parish. Contact details are: Liz Callwood 540081 or [lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizcallwood@tiscali.co.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**

### **Crime Trends**

Two properties in Kingstone had outbuildings broken into. This was overnight on Friday 31st July/Saturday 1st August, probably around 2.00am. as one occupier was disturbed by her dogs barking, and then heard the sound of someone walking along the track by her property. A Husquavana 357XP chainsaw and a full fuel can of 2 stroke mixture was stolen from this property.

Further down the track, a garden shed was entered and a Ryobi brush cutter and two full plastic fuel cans containing unleaded fuel were taken. A lawnmower was removed from the shed but left a short distance away, maybe the suspect was disturbed.

Two vehicles and an Ifor Williams trailer were stolen recently from a business premises in Allensmore. There was a silver Peugeot Estate R 547 YUD and a white LDV van BD 51 UUA stolen, and the trailer is a P7E model. Any sightings of these, please let us know straight away. Two vending machines on the site were also broken into and a quantity of cash stolen.

### **Results**

A 45yr old male from Tump Lane was arrested for criminal damage, charged and bailed to court.

A male from Much Dewchurch was cautioned for failing to comply with the conditions of his shotgun certificate.

Three males, 16yrs, 20yrs and 21yrs have been interviewed in relation to the theft of wheels from Callow. Enquiries are continuing

**Community resolution** is a new way for the police to deal with offenders. For minor crimes the victim can say how they would like the person dealt with, such as

receiving a written apology, monetary compensation or even giving money to charity. Unfortunately, putting them in the stocks is not an option.

### **Parents – please note**

West Mercia Police have become aware of new web site that allows children and young people to connect to a complete stranger for on-line chat. The web site is [www.omegle.com](http://www.omegle.com) and it appears that the whole point of the site is to allow a connection to a complete stranger and to engage in a one-to-one chat with them. There are obvious concerns of unsolicited adult/child contact taking place.

West Mercia Police continue to advise parents to show caution when permitting their children any unsupervised access to the internet.

### **SmartWater**

To date, we have sold in excess of 1000 kits in our community, and you will have seen that most villages as well as some businesses are displaying the 'Thieves Beware – SmartWater in this area' signs. In some cases we are selling the kits to household or businesses that have suffered a break-in, it is a good idea to obtain a kit before you are a victim!

It has proved to be an good deterrent to criminals, but only if the warning stickers are applied and the property marked! I have spoken to several people who purchased kits some time ago, but have not 'got round to it yet' If you are one of these people, please check the 'sell by' date on your kit, as the solution has a limited shelf life whilst in the container. Once applied to property, it is has been carbon tested to stay on it for in excess of 100 years! If you would like to know more about the product, or would like to buy one at just £20.00, please get in touch.

### **Shedding Light on Stolen Goods**

Police staff will become a regular sight at auctions and car boot sales in Herefordshire, thanks to a high-powered UV lamp that can easily detect marks on property, made by

UV pens or liquids such as SmartWater. The lamp, to which all officers in the Division will have access, shows marks on property as a yellow light, indicating to the user that the property has been marked in some way and may be stolen.

The portable lamp will be a great step forward in identifying possible stolen property at car boots and auctions, where before, the police did not have the capability to quickly scan large numbers of items for UV markings when away from their stations.

---

**Your Officers based at Peterchurch**

**Local Police Officer**

**PC Andrew Bundy.**

**Mobile No: 07855 385 844**

**Email:**

[andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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](mailto:fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**CSO 6993 Kevin Powell.**

**Mobile No: 07779 141 232**

**Email:**

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

**uk**

**Response Policing**

**PC Roger Bradley**

**Email:**

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

**Hereford Rural South Email**

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

**ce.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 **OCTOBER** 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

\* \* \* \* \*

**18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

\* \* \* \* \*

Please mark your envelope

**“Kings Thorn Newsletter**

---

***Mobile Library Timetable***

**THURSDAYS**

**10<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1<sup>st</sup> Oct., 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct.,**

**12<sup>th</sup> Nov., 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2009**

MB, Church	9.00 – 9.30
Pilgrim Hotel	9.35 – 10.00
Wrigglebrook	10.10 – 10.30
LB Village Hall	10.40 – 11.00

**SATURDAYS**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sept., 10<sup>th</sup> Oct., 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.,**

**21<sup>st</sup> Nov., 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2009**

MB Church	9.00 – 9.30
Pilgrim Hotel	9.35 – 10.00

There are new  
advertisements this  
month

**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	13.20 Hereford, Country Bus Station
10.07 Wormelow, Tump Lane	13.28 Hereford, Broad Street
10.12 Little Birch, Castle Inn	13.41 Kings Thorn, Bus shelter
10.18 Kings Thorn, Bus shelter	13.46 Little Birch, Castle Inn
10.31 Hereford, Bridge Street	13.51 Wormelow, Tump Lane
10.38 Hereford, Country Bus Station	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.