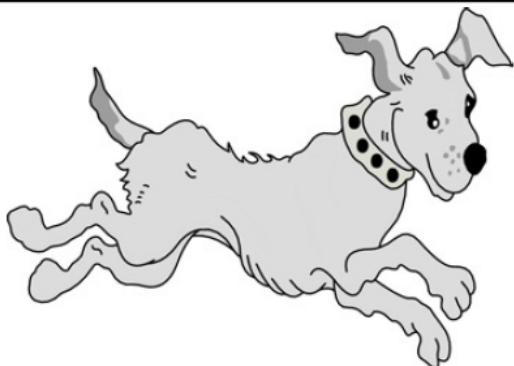




Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury.

September 2015. First published 1977.



Little Birch Village Hall
Barrack Hill, Little Birch,
Hereford HR2 8AZ

Companion Dog Show

(Held under Kennel Club rules)
(Judge Katie Stewart)

Sunday September 6th. 2015

Venue:

Castle Nibole Farm

(Signposted from King's Thorn Bus Shelter)

In Village Hall if wet

Entries from 1p.m. Judging from 2p.m.

Enquiries-call Robyn Hodges 01981 540264

Refreshments available

Church Services in September



- Sep. 6th. 11am LBirch Holy Communion
- Sep. 13th. 9.15am MBirch Family Communion
11am LBirch Morning Worship
- Sep. 20th. 9.15am MBirch CW Communion
11am LBirch CW Communion
- Sep. 27th. 11am MBirch Harvest Communion
6.30pm LBirch Harvest Festival
Preacher The Bishop of Hereford.
Everyone Welcome.

*The Newsletter has not received much copy
of news in Much Birch recently and would
readers please send in their news.*

Please send copy for the October Newsletter to
birchesnews@gmail.com or written
contributions to John Bryant at Bramley
Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.
—by 18th September please.



LOCAL NEWS

A very warm welcome is given to Mr and Mrs Neil Wilson, who have moved into 'Upper Wrigglebrook Croft', a few months ago and we trust they will be happy in their new home and in this community.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Kath and Derek Nash of King's Thorn who have moved to Shropshire. They have both been active in the community, Kath with the 'Quilting group' and both with the 'Thursday' walkers. They were also supportive members of the Evergreen Club. Both have also been very good neighbours and will be greatly missed.

Some years ago, Sally and Colin Dymott purchased and planted 2 'Glastonbury Thorn' trees.

They now feel unable to maintain the areas around the trees but 2 volunteers have come forward and Alison Heath of 'Fairfield' will look after the one in 'Waterloo' lane at the bottom of 'The Thorn' and Ros Preece the one near to the Bus Shelter. We are very grateful to these 2 ladies.

Talking of the Bus Shelter, a photograph of the Wormelow cricket team from 50 years ago appeared in the Hereford Times recently, which featured the late Dennis Hands of King's Thorn. It was Dennis who designed and did the drawings for the bus shelter built by local volunteers in the mid-60s and has sheltered passengers ever since. The Herefordshire Council had wanted to replace the present shelter, which was paid for by local donations, with a modern plastic shelter but this idea has been shelved following objections.

Nick Eaton of King's Thorn featured this week in the Hereford Times in their 'One in Eight' appeal for the Haven Breast Cancer. Nick who attends Monmouth School, has promised to donate half of his earnings during August and September to this Appeal, which wants to raise £30,000 for a new specialist nurse for the Haven. He currently works part time at the Pilgrim

Hotel so 'Well Done' Nick. Some while ago, Sarah Dean of Barrack Hill gave her backing to this Appeal following the counselling therapy and information given to those who are going through or have finished treatment for Breast Cancer.

A level results have just been announced and we congratulate successful students. We hope they will continue to do well with their further studies in their chosen university subjects including Ruth Johnson (Classical Studies and English, Reading), Josh Williams (Business and Management, Reading) and Matthew Callwood (Business Studies, Swansea). William Callwood will soon begin an apprenticeship at local company KGD.

Several residents have been into the County Hospital recently and Roger Thomas and Colin Swift of King's Thorn ended up in the same small ward, which was good for both of them. We wish all those who have been poorly recently a speedy recovery.

We are sad to record the passing of Doreen Addis of Tump Lane, Much Birch and we send to her family our deepest sympathy. A tribute to her will be given next month.

We are also sad to hear of the death of Mrs. Dorothy Fleetwood at the age of 99 years. She and her late husband, Bill, ran a small shop, 'Inglenook Stores', on the A49 in Much Birch. She had been in care at Field Farm House in Hampton Bishop for many years



History Talk

The previously postponed talk on "Feet" will now, all being well, take place on Thursday September 10th in Little Birch Village Hall.

It should be fascinating and amusing so do come along. It is to be given by Ruth Richardson who has given some good talks before.

Please note it will start at 7pm (not the usual 7.30). Entry will be £3.00 to include light refreshments.

Alison Clarke

Iris and Sally joint Birthday Party raised monies for the Starlight Childrens Foundation. In thanks they received the following letter;

"Thank you very much for sending in donations to the amount of £570.00 from your joint 60th/70th birthday party! On behalf of everyone at Starlight Childrens Foundation, I would like to thank you for this generous gift which will be used to enhance the quality of life of our Starlight children. There are three desperately ill children in Herefordshire who have asked Starlight to grant their wishes. Your donation will help to grant a four-year-old's wish to go to Disneyworld together with other very poorly children referred to Starlight from Herefordshire." - Neil M.J. Swan Chief Executive

Little Birch Church

is pleased to present a concert by

The Hereford Rail Male Voice Choir

Little Birch Village Hall

Sat. 19th September starting promptly at 7pm.

Tickets £7.50 for adults and £4 for under 16's.

Available from:- John Bryant 01981 540316

Steve Turner 01981 540090

James Gould 01981 540676

John Caton 01981 540267

Tickets are limited so please book your seat early to enjoy a wonderful evening of musical entertainment by this highly accomplished choir.



Meetings, Fundraising and Activities

Pantomime Group



The group is planning to perform

Camelot -The Pantomime

on 5th and 6th February 2016.

First reading and auditions, directed by Jane Bolam, will be on Sunday 27th September.

Why not get involved? We need backstage people, front of house people—as well as actors!

Call Jane on 07508345879.

The 2015 pantomime, Peter Pan, is available on DVD. Copies are free but a contribution to hall funds would be appreciated.

Call Jackie on 541027.



King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

Friday Sep. 4th. 4.30pm.

Childrens Workshop at L. Birch Village Hall.

Come and learn how to make a Vegetable Monster or How to make a Garden on a Plate.

Vegetables will be supplied or bring your own.

Sat. 5th Sep. Open Show at Little Birch Village Hall

Exhibits to be staged between 9am and 10.45am.

The Hall will be closed for judging at 11am.

The Hall will be open for viewing at 2pm

Refreshments available from 2pm. Meet up with old friends.

Presentation of Trophies and Raffle Draw at 3.45pm followed by sale of produce.

Sat. 19th. Sep. Autumn Visit to the Picton Garden at Colwall, near Malvern,

View the superb collection of Michaelmas Daisies(400 varieties) If you need a lift, please ask. We shall meet at the garden entrance at 2pm. Cost £3 per person. The garden is on the B4218 (Walwyn Road, Malvern) and post code is WR13 6QE

Wed. 30th. Sep Normal monthly meeting at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall.

Sue Dodd and Sue Smith will give a talk entitled 'Butterflies, Moths and Gardens' including what plants we can grow to attract them.

Further information from John Bryant 01981 540316.

Much Birch Surgery Flu Clinics

Saturday 3rd and Saturday 17th October
08:30 - 11:00 at Much Birch Community Centre
Invitation letters will be available to collect from reception for those patients in the risk categories from the week starting 14th September.

Refreshments will be available on the flu clinic mornings to raise funds for Much Birch Church and The Hospice

The Evergreen Club

On **Tuesday, 8 September**, we are going to **Penarth** for our annual day at the seaside.

Cost is £10 for members (£12 for visitors).

The pick up times will be:

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.05
Much Birch Church bus stop	9.10
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.15
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.25
Fonteine Court - Ross	9.35

To book, or if you have any queries, please ring Bridget on **01981 540932**

Ward Councillor

In July readers were asked if regular reports from the Birch ward councillor, David Harlow, should be included in this Newsletter. Six replies were received. Two were in favour, four against. Three were strongly against. It has therefore been decided that the reports will not be included in future editions. The reports can be obtained by contacting David by email on David.Harlow@herefordshire.gov.uk. They will also be posted on the Little Birch parish council website littlebirchparishcouncil.org. Parishioners will also be able to meet and talk to David at Much Birch and Little Birch parish council meetings that he is expected to attend from time to time.



HR2 Community Shop

We Need You!

Firstly, we have received the pre-planning report for a community shop at the **Treberva Fruit Farm**. There are a few issues from both Highways England and the Planning Office which need to be addressed.

We need help with some of the planning issues, and would love to hear from you if you have experience and can help in any of the following areas;

- A design and access statement;
- A sequential test of sites considered for the proposed facility;
- Fully detailed elevations if an application is to be made in full (1:100);
- A route analysis showing how pedestrians would access the site from the surrounding settlements including a 24/7 speed survey of the A49 at points where pedestrians would cross;
- Detail of alterations to the existing access and how they would ensure compliance with DMRB, in accordance with Part 7 TD 41/95 including Road Safety Audit and NMU Audit procedures;
- A Transport Statement indicating the proposed trip generation to the site to provide evidence to determine the required access layout arrangement;
- A detailed site layout to show how parking & turning provisions would be made within the site;
- A detailed site access plan showing available visibility splays and access measurements.

Secondly, the Steering committee needs to gauge how much support there is for a shop on this site so please help us to help you!

If you would like to pledge your support or comment, please go to our facebook page, or e-mail hr2communityshop@gmail.com or post to **HR2 Community Shop, C/o Meadow Lodge, Wormelow, Hereford, HR2 8EG. NB!! Please let us know which village you are in.**

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

Much Birch Village Market

The next Market takes place on September 22nd between 2.3pm and 4.30pm

Much Birch WI

Much birch WI holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

On September 15th, we have an Open Meeting when the Herefordshire WI Choir, 'Grace Notes', will be entertaining us. All are welcome.

The Annual Village Quiz will take place on Friday, 2nd October at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

If your Club/Organisation has not been notified and you would like to participate as a team of 4, please contact Gillian 01981 540080 or Caroline 540422 for more details.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for September 2015

Little Birch Annual Companion Dog Show

Held under Kennel Club rules

The annual companion dog show will be held on Sunday 6th September in the field below Castle Nibole Farm (Village Hall if wet)

Entries from 1pm

Judging from 2pm

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The regular monthly meeting of the 'LBVH Book Exchange' will be on the morning of Saturday 26th September at Little Birch Village Hall 10am – 12pm.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for "a good read".

A warm welcome, tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided and we look forward to meeting up with regular and new visitors to the Book Exchange.

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire of hall and refreshments.

Whist Drive

Your local Whist Drive needs YOU!

We'd love to see you at our monthly whist drive whether you haven't played for some time or you're a complete beginner. We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.



Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 8th September at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at 7.30p.m and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Pub Night

Our ever popular pub night returns on Saturday 3rd October from 7:30pm

A warm welcome, traditional pub games suitable for all ages, light refreshments and a fully licensed bar will be provided at Little Birch Village Hall which will be transformed for the evening into your village local.

An opportunity to meet up with old friends, welcome new residents to the community and learn about LBVH local activities and events. We look forward to seeing you there

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If you would like to pledge your support or comment, please go to our facebook page, or e-mail hrcommunityshop@gmail.com or post to HR2 Community Shop, C/o Meadow Lodge, Wormelow, Hereford, HR2 8EG. NB!! Please let us know which village you are in.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

Older Driver Day In Ross

IAM HEREFORDSHIRE is holding its final 'Safer Driving Refresher Day', specially for older drivers, in Ross-on-Wye on Friday 18 September.

Tina Lawrence, who is a driver training expert, will lead the day with some lively presentations. Herefordshire is a beautiful rural county but driving in both town and country brings its own set of hazards. Topics will include hazard awareness speed observation and how to stay safe on the road. Tina will also be bringing everyone up to date with the latest regulations.

Take advantage of a short assessed drive, in your own car, by a qualified Advanced Driving Observer. The observers act as mentors and will give invaluable help and advice, helping you to become more confident.

This is our final older driver event for 2015 nad has been running now for three years – helping older drivers to update their driving knowledge and learn practical skills, and has been adopted nationally by the IAM.

Cost is £20 for the day and places are limited - so book now by calling 01432 840835 or email [safer-drivers@iam-herefordshire.org.uk](mailto:safers-drivers@iam-herefordshire.org.uk).

Institute of Advanced Motorists - Herefordshire is the safe driving charity affiliated to IAM and runs courses at Much Birch throughout the year for drivers of all ages, who wish to improve their skills and safety on the road.

Safety in the Community.....

South Hereford Rural Police Briefing



POLICE UPDATES

For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via www.westmercia.police.uk.

Should you wish to review crime and anti-social behaviour trends in your area over a longer period this can be done by visiting www.police.uk.

Allensmore

Incident 0113S 110815. On 8th August at 11:30hrs a white transit/luton style van with a sloping high roof, drove into Allensmore nurseries and stole a power washer.

Kivernoll

Incident 0140s 100815. On 8th August at 20:39hrs two persons have accessed Vinco Sales Ltd with bolt cutters and cut the locks off a couple of containers and trailers. Nothing was stolen.

Incident 0181s 080815. On 7th August at 22:10hrs a white transit with two persons in entered Vinco Sales Ltd with bolt cutters and broke into three containers; something was stolen from one of the containers.

If you have any information regarding any of the above you can contact Hereford Police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999. Any incidents stated are infrequent and spread about a wide area. Herefordshire is a safe place to live!

Rental Fraud: Targeting Empty Properties - Alert

The suspect(s) will find and enter an empty property for the purposes of changing the locks and then advertising it on online platforms, such as Gumtree, as a rental property. The suspect(s) then invite interested victims to visit the property for a viewing. Those victims which are interested in renting the property are then requested to pay a deposit and/or rent upfront in cash.

In some instances the victims have moved into the property only to be evicted by the real property owner, or have found that the locks have been changed, once they have received the keys. There are several instances where this fraud has left victims homeless.

Property Owners:

- If you or someone you know currently has an empty property, encourage them to visit the property regularly to make sure that the locks have not been changed and no damage has occurred.

Prevention Advice:

- Avoid communication with only email or mobile phone, request to see the property owner and ask for valid ID. You can also check ownership of the property using the Land Registry.
 - The landlord will carry out their own due diligence and should request all of your details, references and proof that you will be able to afford to rent the property. Make sure that these checks are completed prior to paying a deposit / rent.
 - Always view the property and the tenancy agreement before paying any upfront costs.
- If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

Shed Security

We have had a number of reports recently of garden sheds being targeted and there are several precautions that you can take to protect your property.

Try to avoid leaving expensive equipment like garden tools, mowers, mountain bikes and power tools in your shed. If you have to then it is worth considering the below.

- * Keep your shed in good condition
- * Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door
- * Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed
- * Fit grilles or mesh to the windows

* Invest in an alarm

Make sure:

Large items such as bikes are chained together. It is much more difficult to a thief to carry away a lot of large heavy items all at once.

Ladders are locked to a secure fixture in the shed or garage so they cannot be used to reach top floor windows of your house.

Top tips for a safer Garden

* Gates fences and walls should be kept in good repair to stop intruders getting in.

* Grow prickly plants close to vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes – examples include Berberis, Pyracantha and Holly.

* Don't leave ladders and tools lying around in your garden – these could be used to break into your home.

* Mark your garden tools with your postcode.

* If you have nowhere else to store valuable equipment, take measures to secure your shed.

Horse watch

This is a Watch Scheme for horse owners to join. There is no website at present but there is a Facebook page. The membership form is attached for anyone who may be interested. Free signage is available to those who join the Watch Scheme.

Your nearest public service counter is at Hereford Police Station, Bath Street, Hereford, HR1 2HT:

Opening hours of:

Monday to Saturday: 8am to 8pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays: 10am to 4pm

Useful Contacts

Victim Support 01432 347208

Childline 0800 1111

Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 7831359

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776 600

National Neighbourhood Watch Association

02079 630160

Herefordshire Road Safety Hotline 01432 364582

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

Regards

Lowri ANDERSON

PCSO 40247

Southwye Safer Neighbourhood Team

FLICKS IN THE STICKS at Much Birch Community Hall NEW SEASON

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2015

Tuesday 22nd September 7.30pm -

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS 12A

David Tennant, Rosamund Pike and Billy Connolly star in this feature film adaptation of the winning formula behind BBC smash-hit sitcom *Outnumbered*, centred on separated couple Doug and Abi, and the antics of their precocious, wisecracking three children. On a trip to Scotland to celebrate Doug's father Geordie's 75th birthday, Doug and Abi try to put aside their differences and have an enjoyable weekend. A charming and offbeat comedy with a wide family-friendly appeal, able to connect with audience members as age-diverse as its characters.

Thursday 22nd October 7.30pm -

THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL PG

Thursday 12th November 7.30pm –

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING 12A

*Refreshments including hotdogs available from 7pm
Tickets £4 (£3 under 16s)*

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please email bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com

For further information about films and screenings visit www.artsalive.co.uk (online booking available!)

Much Birch Parish Council
Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright
Longfield House, Gooses Foot,
Kingstone, Herefordshire HR2 9NE
Tel. 01981 250860
Email: muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th July at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting heard about local road and highways issues, including grass cutting, and a formal request was made for the verges etc. to be attended to as soon as possible. There was information about the, then pending, sale of medals awarded to local heroine, Violette Szabo GC. The founder of the museum in her honour, Miss Rosemary Rigby MBE, had set up a fund to try to raise money to attempt to purchase the medals, and other memorabilia of Violette, for the museum in Tump Lane. The Parish Council agreed to publicise the statement from Miss Rigby regarding the sale of the medals, and the appeal for funds, on the Parish web page to help raise awareness.

HELP PLEASE: The Parish Council is looking for a willing volunteer to help out by storing a stock of **sandbags** for the Parish. Around 50 sandbags would need to be stored, in a dry place, and with access for removal when needed. If you think you can help in this way, please contact the Parish Clerk, or one of the Parish Councillors, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be an Ordinary Meeting and this will be held on **Thursday 3rd September 2015 at 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

A reminder that:- **Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-**

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703

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

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

Cllr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail tjsj@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

Cllr Ben Roberts Lynwood, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AR b3nroberts@gmail.com Tel. 01981 540100

Full minutes of the meetings and information etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link found in this summary.www.muchbirchparish.org.uk