

# KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

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

## **Community Safety Evenings**

Following the success of previous 'Roadshows' West Mercia is holding two more in our area. This is an opportunity to learn more about SmartWater, hear from Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue and to meet your Local Policing Team. The events are jointly organised by the local Parish Council and Hereford Rural South Local Policing Team and are free of charge, so please come along.

**WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.30pm in **Garway Village Hall**,  
**THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.30pm. in **Much Dewchurch Village Hall**,

## **Tips, Tastes & Techniques**

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

## **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive is on **TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** in Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee is £1.50. Excellent prizes and

## **DIARY DATES NOVEMBER 2008**

29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Community Safety Evening  
30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Community Safety Evening  
1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER – Tips, Tastes & Techniques  
6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – M.B.P.C. Meeting  
11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Whist Drive  
12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – L.B.P.C. Meeting  
15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks  
18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Much Birch W.I. – AGM  
19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Talk on Blanche Parry  
21<sup>ST</sup> & 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER – Halfway Community Theatre  
22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER – 70's Evening in Little Birch Hall  
27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Christmas Bingo  
28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Village Market in Much Birch Hall

## **ADVANCE NOTICES**

3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER – Gardening Club Christmas Social  
7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Table Top Sale  
16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Much Birch W.I. Christmas Evening  
19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Village Market  
20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks  
22<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER – Carol Singing in Little Birch

refreshments will be available.  
New players are always welcome.

## **Flicks in the Sticks**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at 6.00pm. — **WALL-E U**

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

**(Special Offer – one adult ticket at £3 when bought with a child ticket).** Refreshments served from 5.50pm.

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** at 7.30pm — **THE EDGE OF LOVE 15**

Two feisty, free-spirited women are connected by the brilliant, charismatic poet Dylan Thomas, who loves them both. Stars Kiera Knightley & Sienna Miller.

Tickets £3.50 (£2.50 under 16s).

Tickets available in advance or on the door – for further info or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly 01981 541274

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

## **Much Birch W.I**

Once again, the annual WI Village Quiz for organisations in the area was a great success. Ten teams took part and a good time was had by all, winners and losers alike. Many thanks go to the ladies who contributed their time and refreshments.

The next meeting is the A.G.M and members' evening and is on **TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.**

On **TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** the meeting is the members' Christmas evening with Christmas Poetry and

Prose by Valerie Bingham and Joyce Hughes.

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### ***Blanche Parry***

Ruth Richardson, a Herefordshire historian and author, is giving a talk in Little Birch Village Hall on **WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm. about this most interesting lady, who was a confidante to Queen Elizabeth I. Ruth will give us an insight into Blanche Parry's fascinating life. She was born and brought up in Herefordshire then became part of the Elizabethan court where she remained for the rest of her life, gaining her very important position as the Queen's confidante. In this capacity, she was able to petition the Queen on people's behalf and act on behalf of the Queen, so she was much involved in the politics of the time though little recognised – until now! Entry will be £2.50 to include light refreshments.

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### ***70's Evening***

On **SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER** we shall be holding a "70's Evening" in Little Birch Village Hall from 7.30pm. to midnight. Dress is optional; however, we hope that those who are able to locate/fit into their treasured "Minis and maxis, Bell-bottoms, platforms/wedges and still do 'big hair' will lead the dancing to the music of Abba, and many other 70's favourites". Admission (16 and over) is £8 to include a Ploughman's supper and there will be a Bar. You can buy tickets only from the following – Jackie Morley on 01981 541027, Robyn Hodges on 01981 540264 or Margaret Stringer on 01981 540583.

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### ***Halfway Community Theatre***

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

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

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### ***Xmas Bingo***

Please join us for Bingo on **THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at Little Birch Village Hall. Eyes down at 8.00pm. There are very good prizes and refreshments will be available.

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### ***Much Birch Village Market***

The Village Market celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> birthday in September. Chris and Peter Dowsett kindly made a lovely birthday cake which was enjoyed by the stall holders along with their cups of tea.

The next Market takes place on **FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** between **2.30pm and 4.30pm** in Much Birch Community Hall. At the time of writing, I have just heard from a new producer who will bring along lamb and cheese. September also saw a new producer of vegetables, preserves and chutneys and bread (I can recommend the rye and whole meal)!

Much Birch Church is having a Christmas stall at this market and I am hoping there will be some additional craft stalls.

Because the fourth Friday will be Boxing Day, please note that the December Market will be held on **FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** in MB Community Hall between 2.30pm. and 5.30pm. All the usual food producers will be there so please come along to support them. If you have any queries about the Market please contact Kath Watts 01981 540382.

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### ***Table Top Sale***

There will be a Table Top Sale on **SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** at 2.00pm. in Little Birch Village hall. This will be an opportunity to find those last minute Christmas gifts! Tea and cake will be provided. The price of a Table will be £5.00. Bookings can be made by telephone to Jackie Morley on

01981 541027 and Robyn Hodges on 01981 540264.

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### ***Carol Singing***

We shall meet at Little Birch Village Hall for Carol Singing around the village on both **MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER** and **TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER** from 6.30pm. – 9.00pm. more news next month.

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### ***Local News***

A very successful sale of the contents was held at Daneswood on 18<sup>th</sup> September, which raised £500 for MacMillan Cancer Care. Christine and Peter Dowsett also had a sale of cakes and other items, which raised another £100 and together with what they had already raised from refreshments at the Mini-Market and the first 'flu clinic, enabled them to pay in over £950 to the MacMillan Funds. Once again, congratulations to Christine and Peter and their helpers for this wonderful achievement and sincere thanks to everyone in the community who has given such splendid support.

A warm welcome is extended to MARY and TIM JONES, their daughter, JAY, and to their chocolate labrador, 'Rollo', who have come to live at 'Glen Helen', Kings Thorn and we trust they will be very happy in their new home and in this community.

Congratulations are extended to MR. BILL GIBBONS who recently celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday and we hope he will enjoy further years at his home, which he so much loves.

Sadly, a very familiar figure has passed on to that Great Kennel in the sky and we shall all miss the rescued greyhound 'Murphy' as he took his daily walk. Our sincere wishes go to ROSEMARY and TONY GRUBB in their sad loss.

Guy Fawkes celebrations will soon be heralded by the displays of fireworks and we urge everyone to be mindful of all animals at this time and the distress that may occur. It would be very considerate if anyone plans to celebrate with

fireworks at any time to inform their neighbours so that appropriate measures can be taken. Recently a horse was badly frightened and injured itself in the stable following a sudden late night use of fireworks. There is obviously great fun to be had with fireworks but please, please be conscious of the upsets that can occur.

Several friends in the community have been or still are in hospital following operations and for those now at home we send our good wishes for complete recoveries including IRIS and SELBY LLOYD, DICK BRIMACOMBE and REV. DAVID JOHNSON, and we send our thoughts and prayers to BRIAN and CAROLINE POWELL as Brian continues his stay in hospital.

It is sad to hear of the sudden death of BERT EGGERTON of Much Birch. Bert came with his family and parents to live with Lewis Stallard at Lyston Smithy some 30 years ago. They all moved to Little Newcroft about 15 years ago and Bert continued to build up his own business there. Unfortunately, his wife, Frances, suffered a long and painful illness and her death, a few years ago, devastated the whole family. Bert will be sadly missed by many friends and acquaintances but especially by his family and we send to his sons, mother, brother and sister and to Lewis Stallard our deepest sympathy.

*Question:* What is the connection between the tiny French village of Ecques and Kings Thorn? *Answer:* FRANCIS ADRIAN ROCHE. The name of the Gwent airman is still revered by the French villagers who saw the death of his two crewmates.

Frank Roche came to Kings Thorn with his family in 1984 and, although it was known that he had been a prisoner of war from 1940 to 1945, the full story was never known. Research by his daughter, Adrienne, and a chance visit to the graves of the other two crew members in Ecques, resulted in a

visit to an exhibition put on by two local historians. One of them, Hugues Chevalier, produced a book some two years ago about air crashes in the Pas de Calais region in which two pages are devoted to the crashes involving the 3 Blenheim bombers, in one of which Frank Roche was the observer/navigator. These three Blenheims flew across the English Channel on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1940 to cover the desperate withdrawal of British forces to Dunkirk. All three were shot down with all personnel surviving from one plane, all killed in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, whilst only Frank survived from the 3<sup>rd</sup> as the parachutes of his companions failed to open and they were killed on impact with the land. Local villagers from Ecques sheltered Frank for an hour, giving him food, water, soap and clean clothes but then German soldiers with dogs came and took him away. Frank was incarcerated in six camps over five years in Poland and Germany, making several attempts to escape, but these were all foiled. There was scarcely any food, which in any case was awful, but Frank did say many friendships were made, some of which endured for the rest of his life and that they were eternally grateful to the Red Cross for the chance to study. He never went back to Ecques, but the villagers never forgot him and one family still retains Frank's parachute, which they display with great pride. They also keep the graves of his two comrades in good order with fresh flowers. As a result of Adrienne Roche's contact with Hugh Chevalier, his story was completed and Ecques' local newspaper, Echo de la Lys, commemorated the anniversary of 30<sup>th</sup> June 1940 with a full-page feature and photographs of Sergeant Roche. A full account of the whole episode was published on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 in the South Wales Argus newspaper. After the war, Frank studied at Oxford, taught in a number of schools and finished up as Head of English at

Hartridge High School in Newport. He retired in 1974 and moved to Kings Thorn 10 years later. He and his wife, Joan, were a delightful couple and joined in many local activities, but Frank loved nothing more than singing and was a member of Much Birch Church choir for many years. Everyone who knew him regarded him as a very intelligent, modest and unassuming man. It is appropriate that this account of his war service comes at this time of the year when we give thanks on 11<sup>th</sup> November for all those who gave their lives for their country in two World Wars and in the many conflicts since.

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### *MB Parent & Toddler Group*

This group meets every Friday from 10.00am. – 12noon in Much Birch Community Hall. It caters for ages 0 to pre-school. All welcome. Activities include play, craft, painting, indoor & outdoor play, songs, chat, outings and Parents' Socials. **Contact : Donna Palfreman – 07967 567663.**

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### *Little Birch on Aconbury Hill*

There are still some copies of this book. They make ideal Christmas presents for people who are new to the area, people who used to live here but have moved away and anyone else who does not yet have a copy. They cost £10 and can be obtained from Alison Clarke, John Bryant, Mike Morley or phone 01981 540791

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### *Photographs*

The history group would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has, hidden away, any **old photographs** of Little Birch/Kings Thorn – of places, events or people (if you know who they are!) Anything from the Victorian era up to recent times would be valuable. We already have quite an archive of photos but would like to build up a much bigger one.

If you have nothing but know of people who have moved away, especially older people, perhaps

you could pass the message on. If you do have any, we would like to scan them to store them digitally then return the originals to you. Please ring the above number.

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### **Scam**

The Trading Standards Office is making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on **0906 6611911** (a premium rate number). **DO NOT call this number**, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been **billed £15** for the phone call.

Please advise family members/ friends.

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### **Highways Parish Initiative Scheme**

Herefordshire Council is introducing an initiative where residents can report minor highway defects through the Parish Council. This issue will be discussed as an agenda item during each Parish Council meeting. If anyone wants to report any defects for discussion at a meeting, please contact Liz Callwood, Parish Clerk on 540081, email [lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk) or address: Beech Cottage, Parish Lane, Little Birch.

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### **Heating Oil Co-operative**

As this group evolves, Sue is now emailing everyone who is online to let them know when someone has contacted her for oil, so you can be included in that order if you wish.

If you have not heard from Sue or want to let her know you are running low on oil, please email her to be added to the mailing list, at [sue@herefordwaldorfschool.org](mailto:sue@herefordwaldorfschool.org).

Her telephone number is 01981 540 221.

When ordering oil you can have any amount you want from 500lt upwards. The price on the current

delivery is 49.9p per litre for all quantities, which is 2p lower than the 1000lt price, and considerably less than the price for smaller quantities.

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### **LBPC**

**Report of the LBPC meeting** (This Meeting was postponed from 3rd September due to no electricity supply to Little Birch Village Hall)

No interests were declared.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July were read and signed as a true record.

#### **Matters Arising**

**Village Hall** – The Dog and Horticultural Show events took place successfully.

Quotations are currently being sought for replacement fire doors. Other projects include obtaining funding to modify the disabled toilet and the forthcoming pantomime. The storage container has been installed successfully.

**Parish Lengthsman Scheme** – Further extensive work has been carried out by the Lengthsman. There are a number of culverts that require 'blowing out', and the Clerk is to contact Herefordshire Council.

**Financial Report** – Four Cheques were signed and one Cheque was received.

**Correspondence** – A detailed list of all correspondence was given to the Parish Council and noted.

**Planning** – A Planning Application has been received for Crows Nest for the alteration to raise the height of the roof of an outbuilding. All paperwork was returned with no objections.

#### **Any Other Business**

**Crime** – CSO Kevin Powell reported one crime for the Parish where gates had been stolen. He also informed the Parish Council of attempted thefts in neighbouring Parishes and advised all residents to be vigilant.

**Parish Field** – The trees along the Parish Field have been pruned to prevent damage to electricity lines. A letter is to be sent to Herefordshire Council requesting

the rights, obligations and responsibilities of the Parish Council with regard to the Parish Field and the overhanging trees to the adjacent footpath.

**VAT** – The Clerk has completed a VAT claim.

**Sandbags** – The Clerk is to request sandbags from Herefordshire Council and to confirm their proposed location prior to delivery.

**The Highways Parish Initiative** is to be added to the Agenda for discussion and to report any minor highway defects. The run of water on School Lane is to be reported to Herefordshire Council.

**SmartWater** – Mr. M. Morley offered to put up four SmartWater signs around the Village.

**BT** is to be contacted as the payphone adjacent to the Village Hall is not working.

**Date of Next Meeting** – **WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER**

#### **Parish Clerk**

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish. Contact details are: Liz Callwood on 01981 540081 or [lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk)

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### **M.B.P.C**

Report on MBPC meeting of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

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

**Speed Data** – The Herefordshire Council road safety team has been out during August collecting speed data from the sites identified by the Parish Council within the Parish.

**Wrigglebrook** – Road issues along Wrigglebrook have been attended to by Herefordshire Council over the last few weeks.

**Parish Lane** – The top part of the lane is being looked at by Herefordshire Council PROW regarding maintenance repairs. Further information on the bottom part of the lane is under the control of Herefordshire Council Planning Department which will advise the Parish Council accordingly.

### **Parish Litter Pick**

It was agreed that an action plan be put together to carry out a parish Litter pick - information will be given at the next PC meeting.

### **Parish Litter bin**

Another litter bin is to be erected at the bus stop near Much Birch School.

### **Speeding problems in Kings Thorn**

Clerk to contact Herefordshire Council regarding the issue and request a site visit by Herefordshire Council's head of highways & transportation.

PC Bundy has been asked to carry out speed checks in this area.

### **Lengthsman**

Work identified by the Parish Council is to be carried out shortly to include cutting back the grass verge towards Much Birch School, the triangle area at the bottom of the School leading on to the A49 and ditch clearing around The Thorn.

### **Planning**

#### **Planning Applications supported**

DCSW2008/2025/f **Much Birch School** - Retention of timber building within the grounds of Much Birch Primary School for the purposes of providing before-and-after school care and a nursery class.

DCSW2008/2032/F **Kimberley Cottage, Kings Thorn** - Alterations to first floor extension.

DCSW2008/1726/F **Newcroft Farm, Much Birch** - proposed extension & alterations.

#### **Appeal Application**

**Rangers lodge, Little Birch Rd. Kings Thorn** - Proposed erection of a detached dwelling with ancillary works. Appeal upheld.

#### **Planning Permissions**

DCSW2008/1409/F **Keppler, Wrigglebrook, Kings Thorn**, - Erection of Conservatory.

DCSW2008/02882 **Pilgrim Hotel Much Birch** - Erection of four single story accommodation suites.

DCSW2008/1158/F **Gamberhead Farm, Wormelow** - Upgrade of existing field access gate and track to form driveway to residential

property. Change of use of land involved from agricultural to residential.

DCSW2008/1419/O **Glen Helen, Kings Thorn** - Site for construction of dwelling served by sewerage treatment plant.

### **Meetings**

Halc training dates were noted.

**Communications group** - The next meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall.

**Correspondence.** - Parish councillors had previously been given the correspondence list, which was noted.

**Next meeting - THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm.

For information on Much Birch Parish please visit our website [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

**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

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### **Much Birch 100 Club Draw**

The latest draw took place on Thursday, 16th October in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.00pm.

The winners were:

1. No. 74 - Mr. & Mrs. D. Jones, Much Birch
2. No. 64 - Mrs. A. Glorney, Ross-on-Wye

The next draw will take place on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon in Much Birch Community Hall.

*John Jones, Chairman/Promoter.*

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### **Neighbourhood Watch**

#### **Results**

A 23yr old male was cautioned for burglary at a dwelling at Holme Lacy. (Domestic related offence.)

A 40yr old male was charged and bailed to court for possession of amphetamine at Much Birch.

A 17yr old male was arrested in Kingstone for possession of an offensive weapon.

Two persons were issued with fixed penalty notices for excess speed at Kings Thorn. (£60 and 3 points.)

One person was issued with fixed penalty notice for excess speed at Knockerhill. (£60 and 3 points.)

A 44yr old male from Tump Lane was arrested for racially aggravated public order. He has been released on police bail for further enquiries.

### **Crime Trends**

21<sup>st</sup> August a catalytic converter was stolen from a Landrover Freelander at Thrupton.

Between 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August a Bat roost was destroyed at a farm at St Weonards. (Yes, this is a crime.)

11/12-09-08 a car was entered at St Weonards and a Laptop computer was stolen.

15/16 September person stole the driveway gates to premises in Little Birch Road.

26<sup>th</sup> September a BT engineer working at the new Travel Lodge at Grafton had a set of ladders stolen that had been resting against a telegraph pole. He had left the ladders for just a few minutes while he went to his van. They are a specialised set of interconnecting 8m ladders, so keep your eyes open.

A black Nissan Navara was damaged whilst parked in an open garage at a farm in Allensmore, a zig-zag scratch has been left along the side of the vehicle.

A break-in to some isolated farm buildings at Haywood was discovered recently. The buildings are down a track, and the gate at the top of the track is kept padlocked. The padlock had been cut off, and one of the buildings had been broken into, but nothing was taken.

The occupant of a white Ford Fiesta car-derived van P\*\*\*MTR was found acting suspiciously at Howton, Pontrilas. He was seen to be eyeing up some tools and vehicles, and to attempt to pick up an old radiator. When challenged, he made off in the direction of Abergavenny.

There are a couple of vehicles that have been reported to us as acting suspiciously in the area. We do have the full registration numbers

but are not able to disclose them due to Data Protection rules.

L\*\*\*HUX is a grey Subaru Legacy estate, which has been seen in the Callow area, it was seen in the vicinity of farm buildings that were broken into.

V\*\*\*RJW is a white Renault Kango car-derived van that was seen twice yesterday parked up in a lay-by in Wormelow. The two white male occupants, aged about 20 - 25 years, appeared to be watching nearby premises.

Since the last briefing there have been more thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles parked on garage forecourts. Five vehicles had them removed overnight last Friday/Saturday at Tram Inn, Allensmore. A black Ford Focus T\*\*\*WUT may have been involved, as it was seen in the area.

Also, an attempt was made to steal one from a motorcycle in Grafton the previous evening - this is the first report we have had of a motorcycle being targeted.

A vehicle had both its registration plates stolen whilst parked in Allensmore during the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> October. The plates were then used on another vehicle that stole fuel from Locks garage the same evening. This vehicle was a bright blue Vauxhall Cavalier with a distinctive white coloured driver's door mirror. If you see this vehicle, please obtain the registration number and description of any occupants.

Unfortunately there have been two further burglaries reported to us.

On 16<sup>th</sup> October between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, an isolated property in Pencoyd was entered. The suspects broke a conservatory window and gained entry, but when they opened the door into the main house, the burglar alarm went off, and they left empty handed.

Another very isolated property near Garway was broken into between 12 noon and 8.00am. of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October, the suspects forced entry via the front door, but at this stage nothing appears to have been stolen.

There has also been another drive off without payment from Locks garage, Allensmore. This time a silver VW Golf was used to steal almost £60.00 of fuel, but bearing the registration plates from a blue Skoda, which earlier had been stolen from a vehicle at Rowlestone.

If you can help with any of these incidents, please get in touch.

### ***Not in Herefordshire***

A campaign aimed at addressing the fear of crime is being launched in Herefordshire on 1st October. The county is already one of the safest places in the UK, and has one of the best performing police divisions too, with higher than average detection rates and an overall crime rate that continues to fall year on year.

Supt Kevin Purcell, in charge of policing operations for the county, said, "The initiative has been developed to counter the imbalance between fear of crime and the reality. Herefordshire really is a safe place but surveys seem to indicate that fear of crime is higher than it should be. That is a concern for us".

People in the county will shortly see a range of posters at various locations, on the backs of buses and on beer mats at their local, reminding everyone that the county is a great place to be.

"People's fear of crime can be complex, influenced by what we see on TV and in the press, by what goes on elsewhere in the world and by who we are as individuals", said Supt Purcell. "We can't hope to change everything but if we can help people realise that in Herefordshire they are safe in their homes, when they go out for the night or to work, then that will be a tremendous step forward".

### ***Sheep worrying***

There have been instances of sheep being attacked and killed in the Pontrilas and Orcop areas in the past two weeks, which culminated yesterday in two dogs being seen to attack and kill a sheep. The attack was witnessed

by the owner of the sheep, who was powerless to prevent the attack as the dogs were very aggressive towards her. She called a neighbour who was able to get the dogs off the sheep, but not before they had killed it. The dogs were both destroyed, and it may be that they were the ones responsible for the other attacks. It was a very distressing incident for all involved. The blame for these incidents must rest with the owners of the dogs, all dog owners must be aware of their pets whereabouts at all times if these incidents are to be avoided.

### ***Season Of Mists...***

We are now firmly into autumn, "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", as Keats penned. The mellow fruitfulness is fine but the mists (and fog) can be problematic. As we all know, mists and fogs reduce visibility considerably, yet still some people will drive around without their headlights on.

Please use headlights in fog, not just sidelights which are ineffective. Remember you might be able to see in daytime fog but others probably won't see you if you don't have your headlights on.

The time of year is also a timely reminder to get the car checked over before the winter comes - check your antifreeze, tyre pressures, all your lights and make sure you carry some sort of emergency pack in case you get stranded.

### ***SmartWater***

You may have seen by now the 'Thieves Beware' posters that are displayed at the entrances to many of our villages in South Herefordshire, and also on small businesses and some farms. These are to highlight the fact that SmartWater is being used in that community, and to deter would-be thieves. SmartWater is being used across the UK to uniquely mark property which can then be traced back to its rightful owner should it come into police possession. It is also being used commercially to protect offices, schools and

businesses by means of a spray system which covers any intruders in the solution, and which will remain on their skin and hair for months afterwards, and on clothing and shoes for ever. Any person taken into police custody will be routinely scanned for traces of SmartWater which can link them to the scene of a crime, or identify stolen property they may have in their possession.

Criminals do not like SmartWater and will avoid it at all costs, hence the need to advertise its use.

We are expecting another large delivery of SmartWater kits in the next few days, if you have not already purchased one and would like to reserve one, or find out more, please get in touch.

If you would like to know more about SmartWater, please contact us.

**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)

**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)

Hereford Rural South Answer phone  
01432 346756

Non-Emergency phone  
08457 444 888

Emergency phone 999

*Your Local Representatives*

**East - JOHN BULBECK 540178**

**Central - BOB PETERS 540670**

**West - BETTY PHILPOTT 540614**

***Email Newsletter & Alerts***

If you would like to receive the West Mercia alerts which are sent to the editor two or three times a month, please let me have your email address and they will be automatically forwarded to you as soon as I get them. If you would also like to receive the Newsletter by email, thereby saving the community a lot of shoe leather collation time, paper and print, you could be put on a separate list to get it as soon as it is ready. In either case your email address will be private as these alerts and the NL are sent in the 'bcc' box which does not show your address.

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***Library***

Could somebody please let me have the new times for the Library Van in both Little and Much Birch so that they can be published in the Newsletter together with the venues?

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***Items/Copy***

***PLEASE NOTE  
CHANGE OF DATE***

Please may I have items for the DECEMBER issue via email attachment in Word format to [sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk) or by hand or post to Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD. by

\* \* \* \* \*

**15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

\* \* \* \* \*

Please mark your envelope  
"Kings Thorn Newsletter"

**MURPHY'S PAW**

**DOG WALKING SERVICE**

Telephone Trish on

01981 541214

07519 643546