

# KING'S THORN & THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

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

## **MBPC**

### **Update of the Parish Plan**

There will be a Parish Meeting on **TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall. Come and see how you can influence the future of Much Birch whether it is planning, play areas, public transport or anything your parish needs.

### **Parish Freighter**

On **SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**, the Parish Freighter has been booked for two sites:

**King's Thorn bus shelter car park** between 11.00am. & 1.00pm. and **Wormelow Park** between 2.00pm. & 4.00pm.

### **Halfway Community Theatre**

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

### **WI**

The AGM will be held at 7.30pm. on **TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** and the members' Christmas Evening is on **TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**. Meetings are held in Much Birch Community Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The programme for 2010 will be available soon. For

## **DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2009**

27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Update of Parish Plan in MB Hall  
31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER – Parish Freighter  
4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – LBPC Meeting  
6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Halfway Community Theatre  
10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Whist Drive  
16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Induction of new Rector, Kings Caple  
17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – W.I. AGM  
20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Pampered Chef  
21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks  
24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – The Scottish Army in Herefordshire  
25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Gardening Club  
26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Little Birch Bingo  
27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – Village Market with a Christmas flavour

### **ADVANCE NOTICES**

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER – Display of Prints by Allan MacDougall  
15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – W.I Christmas Evening

further information about Much Birch WI please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382, or Jennifer Jones, 01981 540698

### **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive at Little Birch Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm., is on **TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**. The entrance fee is £1.50. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

### **New Rector**

As mentioned in the last Newsletter the Institution and Induction of the new Rector will take place at Kings Caple Church at 7.30pm. on **MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**. Everyone will be welcome at this Service.

### **"Pampered Chef Evening"**

This is an open invitation for **FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** to all keen cooks and budding chefs to attend a demonstration of high

quality kitchen accessories in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

It will be a pre-Christmas treat for those in charge of the festive menu and there will be lots of ideas for gifts. **Entrance free.** Nibbles and drinks will be served!

### **Flicks in the Sticks**

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

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

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** at 7.30pm — **THE YOUNG VICTORIA12**

This is a dramatisation of the turbulent first years of Queen Victoria's rule, and her enduring romance with Prince Albert; written by Julian Fellowes and starring

Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend along with other well-known British actors.

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### **The Scottish Army**

Come along and hear Adrian Harvey telling us about the Scottish Army in South Herefordshire in the Summer of 1645

- Why did a large Scottish Army, the Army of the Solemn League and Covenant, come to Herefordshire in 1645?
- Why did it occupy Ross-on-Wye and Mitcheldean?
- Why did its General decide to besiege Hereford?
- What effect did all this have on Little Birch and other villages in the area like it?
- Why did it help to change the course of the Civil War?

on **TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30. Cost £3.50 to include a soup supper after the talk.

Adrian tries to answer some of the questions that have remained unanswered for more than 300 years.

He has given several well-received talks to us as well as to many other groups in the area. He is a member of our local history group and wrote a substantial section of *Little Birch on Aconbury Hill*.

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### **Bingo**

The next **Special Christmas Bingo** will be held at 8.00pm. on **THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at Little Birch Village Hall. There are special prizes and refreshments will be available.

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### **MB Village Market**

The November market will be held in Much Birch Community Hall on **FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>** between 2.30pm. and 4.30pm. As well as the usual local produce suppliers there will be some extra craft / gift stalls for you to browse.

Please come and join us to show your support for local food producers of Dexter beef, ready meals and pies, rare breed pork, sausage, bacon, chicken, duck etc.

You will also find fresh bread, cheeses, preserves and a Fairtrade stand. Refreshments are sold in aid of McMillan Cancer Support. For further details please contact Kath Watts on 01981 540382

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### **Gardening Club**

The next meeting will take place on **WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm. when Mr. John Pearl will give an illustrated talk entitled **'An evening tour around Madeira, Morocco and the Mediterranean.'** Everyone welcome.

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### **Christmas Present Idea**

Allan MacDougall will display his prints of local landscapes and UK mountain areas at 'Iscoed' the weekend of **12<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.**

See boxed advertisement.

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### **Local News**

Little Birch Church was the venue for the marriage of CAROLINE (nee GOULD) and ANTHONY ELLIS on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October and we send our best wishes for a long and happy future together.

Congratulations are sent to HEATHER WATHEN and WAYNE WHISTANCE on the birth of a baby daughter. No names have yet been given but she weighed in at 7lb. 8oz. The baby is the first grandchild for proud grandparents, Rose and Des Wathen.

It is sad to announce the death of JOHN CLENCH, erstwhile of Vron House, Wrigglebrook. Our sincere condolences are sent to his wife, Gladys, and daughter, Carol, and her family.

Our deepest sympathies are also extended to Tim Loughman and sons, Guy and Mark and their families following the sudden death of wife and mother, JEAN (nee ROOKE) and also to her sisters, Evelyn and Anne. Jean's funeral will take place on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00am. at Little Birch. Fuller tributes will be given in next month's Newsletter.

It is good to report that JOHN CATON and REV. DAVID JOHNSON are now back at home following their operations and we trust that they will soon be enjoying their normal active lives very soon.

The Harvest Supper at Little Birch Hall was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended and our thanks go to all those who prepared and served such a tasty supper and to the Compost Heap for their impromptu sing song.

Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated the following day with a full congregation at Little Birch Church when the preacher was Rev. Paul Barlow, erstwhile headmaster of John Kyrle School who always gives a challenging and thought provoking sermon, delivered with his usual humour. The decorations in the Church were admired by all and the tea following the service gave everyone the chance to catch up and chat with other parishioners. Donations of fruit, vegetables and tinned goods will be sent to the 'Hereford Open Door' charity.

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### **Christmas Vegetable Boxes**

The Masons at **MERRIVALE FARM** will be selling vegetable boxes again for Christmas. Enjoy local fresh seasonal veg., now and with your Christmas meals. They would also make great presents. Ring Emily on 07966 458961 for details. Order forms will be available from Merrivale.

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### **MBPC**

#### **Report on meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

It was decided not to continue with the communications group that had been set up between Little Birch Parish Council, Little Birch Village Hall Committee and Much Birch Parish Council.

A request has been made to Herefordshire Council for another bus stop opposite the Old Shop in King's Thorn.

Road surface issues at Holly Bush Lane & Pages Pitch have been assessed by Herefordshire Council

Highways Department and have been submitted for consideration for next year's programme. In the meantime, the worst of the potholes will be filled.

**Parish Plan & Parish Freighter**

See Page 1

**Planning**

Permission granted by Herefordshire Council

**Church View Barn** - Proposed amendment to approved plans - conversion of barn into dwelling

**Lynwood, Wrigglebrook, King's Thorn** Proposed new house - revised scheme to planning permission of the repositioning of some external openings

**Owaissa, King's Thorn** - Proposed two storey extension and conservatory with veranda.

**Telephone Kiosk in King's Thorn**

BT have written to the Parish Council with an offer for us to adopt this kiosk for £1.00

The Parish Council are keen to find out how the parishioners of Much Birch feel about adopting this kiosk and ideas for its use. Please write to the Parish Clerk or contact one of the Parish Councillors on Much Birch Parish Council to give your views.

**Footpaths**

Problems along MB13 footpath are being investigated.

**Correspondence.**

Parish Councillors had previously been given the correspondence list, the contents of which were noted.

**Date of Next Meeting**

**THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm. in Much Birch Community Hall.

**Parish Clerk**

If you have any queries on Parish Council matters please telephone the Clerk on 01432 870874 or write to: Mrs Kath Greenow, Hackford House, Dinedor, Hereford, HR2 6PD. For more information on Much Birch Parish Council please visit our website

[www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk)

**Donation**

We had a £5 donation the other day, the first for many months, which was most gratefully received. Now that we no longer have a donation box in the Village shop, we get very few contributions towards the cost of producing the Newsletter. It costs anything from £110 - £150 each month to print. The production, collation and delivery are all done by volunteers. It also helps if you will agree to receive the Newsletter online. Please send me your email address and I will add you to the mailing list. The Newsletter is sent via bcc so your address is not available for anybody to use.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Overnight on Tuesday 6th/Wednesday 7th October, petrol was siphoned from a 4x4 Daihatsu which had been parked on a private driveway in St Weonards.

Overnight on Weds 7th/Thurs 8th October, 6 catalytic converters were stolen from new vehicles parked on a garage forecourt at Callow. This is the first report of this type of crime on our area for several months, please be aware of any vehicles or persons hanging around garage forecourts late at night.

Also overnight 7th/8th October a house undergoing renovation in Haywood was broken into, but nothing appears to have been taken. A shed at the property was also entered but again, nothing appears to be missing.

Once again, I for Williams trailers have been the subject of several thefts in Herefordshire this week, please, if you own one, take steps to secure it, and identify it with a property marking solution such as SmartWater. You have been warned!!

**0300 333 3000**

**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**

**Items/Copy**

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.**

Please may I have items for the **DECEMBER** issue via email attachment in **Word** format to:

[semathews@btinternet.com](mailto:semathews@btinternet.com) or by hand or post to Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD by no later than

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**16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

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