

# NEWSLETTER FOR KINGS THORN, THE BIRCHES & ACONBURY

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury – JULY 2011 – First published in 1977

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM HFDC. CONSULTATION – REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES 2011

Herefordshire Council supports the provision of an extensive network of subsidised bus services across the County. We are facing significant budget pressures and are trying to make savings through more efficient service operations.

We will do all we can to avoid withdrawing services but we cannot rule this out. **We want to know your priorities for the bus network and would like to know what types of service are most important to you. Tell us what you think.**

Questionnaires are available from our Customer Service Centres or can be completed online at [www.herefordbus.info](http://www.herefordbus.info). The questionnaires can be requested and then returned by post to **Transportation Department (Community Transport Consultation)**. Freepost RLSE-HHZC-XTUG, PO Box 236, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0WZ.

“Our” buses, which could be affected, are, 38, 37 and 411.

**Consultation ends Friday 15th July!**

## NOTICE FROM LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Little Birch Parish Council will be discussing the **Consultation on the Review of Subsidised Bus Services** at its next Parish Council Meeting which is to be held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

## DIARY DATES FOR JULY & AUGUST

- 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Little Birch Church Fete
- 6<sup>th</sup> July – Little Birch Parish Council Meeting LBVH
- 10<sup>th</sup> July – “Blooming Great Tea Party” Marie Curie Care
- 12<sup>th</sup> July – Evergreen Club Outing
- 12<sup>th</sup> July – Whist Drive LBVH
- 16<sup>th</sup> July – Open Garden Llanwarne
- 19<sup>th</sup> July – Much Birch W.I. MBCH
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Much Birch Village Market MBCH
- 27<sup>th</sup> July – King’s Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club Visit
- 31<sup>st</sup> July – Save The Children Fund Car Treasure Hunt

- 16<sup>th</sup> August – Much Birch W.I. MBCH
- 20<sup>th</sup> August – Marie Curie Walk in Croft Castle

### Advance Notices

- 2<sup>nd</sup> September – King’s Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club Workshop
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September – King’s Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club Open Show
- 11<sup>th</sup> September – Little Birch Village Hall Dog Show
- 20<sup>th</sup> September – Much Birch W.I. MBCH

**@7:45pm at Little Birch Village Hall.** Please attend if you want to contribute. Alternatively, please contact Herefordshire Council as outlined in the notice above. All welcome.  
Liz Callwood, Clerk to LBPC.

### MUCH BIRCH CHURCHYARD

At the recent Much Birch PCC meeting the upkeep and condition of the churchyard was discussed and it was noted that several graves, particularly in the front ‘new’ part, had subsided and need to be levelled with soil and some graves need to be flattened for ease of maintenance. If anyone has any objections or concerns regarding this work being undertaken, would they please contact one of the Churchwardens before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011 i.e. Sylvia Jones on 01981

540980 or Janet Thomas on 01981 540501.

### LITTLE BIRCH CHURCH FETE

will be held at ‘The Sycamores’, Little Birch, by kind invitation of Dot and Gerald Skyrme, on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** starting at **2pm.**

Various stalls and games for all the family. Offers to help run these and/or prizes will be gratefully accepted. Pauline Rogers 541201, Janet Pugh 540662, John Caton 540267, James Gould 540676, Steve Turner 540090 John Bryant 540316.



### MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE – BLOOMING GREAT TEA PARTY

You are invited to “A Blooming Great Tea Party” **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**

**July 2.30p.m onwards** at Much Birch Community Hall. For further details contact 01981 – 541130. In Aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

**WALK TEN CROFT CASTLE 2011**

Join Marie Curie Cancer Care on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2011** for a twilight 10km sponsored walk around the beautiful National Trust 1000 year old grounds at Croft Castle, Herefordshire. You will start at 7pm in the early evening light and follow a route around the castle before heading up into the 1500 acre grounds and woodlands where you will end up at the Iron Age Hill fort Croft Ambrey. There will be a chance to see all of this historic landscape and grounds whilst raising funds for your local Marie Curie Cancer Care nurses.

Come along for a wonderful summer evening out with the whole family, children under 16 years old go free and £10 to register for everyone else (entrance fee to the grounds is included in this registration fee). For more information please visit the website [www.mariecurie.org.uk/walkten](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/walkten) call 08700 340 040 or email [claire.notman@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:claire.notman@mariecurie.org.uk)  
**MARIE CURIE LOCAL  
HEREFORDSHIRE NURSING  
APPEAL 50/50 CLUB**

Given the choice, most of us – if we had cancer or another illness – would want to be cared for at home if we were dying, close to family and friends and surrounded by things we love Marie Curie Cancer Care makes that choice possible for patients and their families here in Herefordshire. Last year, Marie Curie Cancer Care provided 10,552 hours of nursing care to 114 patients in the county. The

nurses provide hands on care to patients at home, right through the night along with vital emotional support for their families.

The charity has just launched their Herefordshire Nursing Appeal. The appeal aims to raise the £88,880 it will cost Marie Curie to fund the service in Herefordshire this year. Local Nurse Steph Bagley says “Everyone should have access to high quality end of life care when they need it, and in their place of choice. For most people this means dying at home. Every single donation to the appeal, big or small, will help nurses like me care for more people in Herefordshire” Community Fundraiser Richard Scott is calling on locals to support the appeal by joining their 50/50 challenge,” the idea is that we get 50 different people to host their own event this summer and raise £50 each towards Herefordshire’s Nursing Appeal. The event can be anything from a small cake sale to a quiz night at the local pub. We want everyone to be supporting in some way and we want to hear about all the events being held. We would want them to be held by the end of August”

It costs £20 to fund a nurse for one hour. The service is always completely free of charge to the patient and their family but we urgently need your support to reach more people. If you want to be part of the 50/50 challenge then please contact Richard on [richard.scott@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:richard.scott@mariecurie.org.uk) or 0117 942 7132 so we are aware of what you are planning.

**MUCH BIRCH 100 CLUB DRAW**

The June draw took place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.00pm. The winners were:

1. No 64 – Mr. P. Bamford, Much Birch
2. No 56 – Mrs. M. Blythe, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on **Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 10.45am** in Much Birch Community Hall

John Jones – Chairman

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**THE EVERGREEN CLUB** On **Tuesday 12 July**, we are going to the Italian style Peto Garden at Iford Manor. We shall stop at Bradford on Avon for lunch on the way.

**The cost will be £18 (£20 for non-members) which includes entrance to the garden, tea and cake.** The number to ring is **01981 540932.**

*The pick-up times are:*

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Tump Lane (bungalows)	9.00
Poor Clares Convent	9.10
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.15
M. B. Church bus stop	9.20
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.25
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.35
Fontaine Court	9.45

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**LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL  
COMMITTEE NOTICES:**

**WHIST DRIVE**

Our next Whist Drive is on **Tuesday 12 July** 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. **Please note: No Whist during August.**

### **Bookings for Little Birch Village Hall – reminder:**

The Booking Agent for LBVH is now Mrs Sue Jones Tel. 01981 540682 (after 3pm)

**Advance Notice for all dog lovers!** Please keep this date in your diary – **Little Birch Village Hall Dog Show will be on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011** entries from 1.p.m. Judging from 2.p.m. Enquiries after 6.p.m. 01981 – 540264. Full details in the September issue of the newsletter.

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#### **OPEN GARDEN**

Mark and Sally Hayter will be holding an Open Garden on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July** from **3.p.m. to 6.p.m.** in aid of Charities. The event is at Duck House, Llanwarne (by the Ruined Chuch) and all are welcome.

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#### **MUCH BIRCH W.I.**

The **July** meeting takes place on **19<sup>th</sup>** of the month in Much Birch Community Hall at **7.30 pm**. The speaker, whose subject will be ‘The Work of ACWW’ will be Brenda Drake. The association does wonderful work helping to educate under-privileged women in third world countries. **August 16<sup>th</sup>** sees us ‘Family Tree Tapping’ with Frank Townsend and on **September 20<sup>th</sup>** Alison Clarke will tell us about ‘The History of Kings Thorn’. Potential new members and visitors are always welcome. Please contact Kath, 01981 540382, or Caroline, 01981 540422, for further details of Much Birch WI.

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#### **MUCH BIRCH VILLAGE MARKET**

The market takes place in Much Birch Community Hall on the **4<sup>th</sup> Friday** of each month **between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm.**

On **July 22<sup>nd</sup>** we hope to see our usual three butchers, the baker, preserves and chutneys, handmade chocolate, vegetables and the Fair Trade stand. We welcome relatively new additions to our market, Castle Cheese and Dan, who sharpens knives, scissors and garden tools. There are a variety of local craft stalls. Much Birch WI sells books in aid of its two 2011 charities, The Hereford Eye Scanner Appeal and Talking Newspapers. Refreshments and ‘take home cakes’ are sold in aid of McMillan Cancer Support. **Please be aware that this information is correct at the time of going to press. I apologise if someone is missing due to holidays etc.**

Please contact Kath, 01981 540382 for further details.

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#### **LITTLE BIRCH AND KING'S THORN GARDENING CLUB**

The July visit will be a guided tour of the Hereford Cathedral Gardens, some of which are not normally open to the public. Meet at King's Thorn bus shelter on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July, to depart at 6pm** to begin the tour at 6.30pm. Cost £5. John Bryant GV 540316.

#### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

Little Birch and King's Thorn Gardening Club Open Show takes place on **Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** and schedules are attached to this Newsletter. A Children's Workshop will be run on **Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3.30pm** in the Village Hall, when Janet Gwinnett will demonstrate some ideas for entries into the Children's Classes.



**Save the Children**

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#### **SOUTH HEREFORD BRANCH OF SAVE THE CHILDREN**

We have set up a new branch of Save the Children in South Herefordshire to raise much needed funds for disadvantaged children in the UK and around the world.

Our first event is a ‘Car Treasure Hunt’ (details below), with a ‘Pudding and Pimms Evening’ and ‘Christmas Bingo’ planned for later in the year.

The Car Treasure Hunt in Aid of Save the Children will be held on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July** at **Minster Farm House, Much Birch**, by kind permission of Nigel Bowen and Nikki Salter. **Staggered start between 2.p.m. and 3.p.m.**

Explore the villages of South Herefordshire. Maximum of 2 hours.

£10.00 a car to include a BBQ. A variety of prizes.

Booking preferred, please call Claire Bowen on 07980 315 776 Or Elly Deacon-Smith on 07890 051 252

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#### **HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORISTS – ADVANCE NOTICE**

Is a charity affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists, which runs three courses, at Much Birch Community Hall, throughout the year. The aim of the group is to promote road safety within the county and beyond.

Each course consists of three evening meetings, at the first of which each Associate is assigned a personal Observer, who goes out, on a 1 to 1 basis, with the Associate, at mutually convenient times, until they are ready for their Advance Motorist's test, usually about 6

weeks, although this can vary from person to person.

The next course will be on **Thursdays**, in the **evening** of **13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October**. In the first instance **please contact Mary Bevan on 01874 – 712267 for further details or to enroll.**

In addition to the main courses, HAM puts on courses specifically designed for young drivers 17 to 30 years of age, 'mydrivealive', for which there is no charge.

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#### **LOCAL NEWS**

We send our congratulations and best wishes to **MRS. LILLIAN THOMAS** of No 32 Tump Lane, Much Birch, who celebrated her 90th Birthday on Sunday 19th June.

Proud parents, Janet and Murray Gwinnett, recently attended a graduation ceremony at Linton-on-Ouse, Yorkshire, to see their son, **JOHN GWINNET**, awarded his wings after qualifying as an RAF pilot. John has always been single minded to pursue an Air Force career. He joined the Ross on Wye Training Corps aged 13 years and after completing his education at Hereford Sixth Form College, was eventually accepted into the RAF. At 21, he is one of the youngest officers to successfully complete an intensive flight training scheme. He will now continue his fast jet training on Hawk jets at RAF Anglesey. Our hearty congratulations and best wishes go to John.

The funeral service of **PETER SMURTHWAITE** of Eden Lane, Barrack Hill, was held a few weeks ago at Hereford Crematorium. Peter began his working life as an apprentice welder in Darlington. At the age

of 18 years just after WW2, he joined the Coldstream Guards, later moving to the Airborne Section. He later joined the Parachute Regiment before finally graduating to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment SAS in Hereford. He saw active service in many parts of the world, including the Middle East, Iraq and Singapore and was awarded and presented with the British Empire Medal by HM The Queen. He was promoted to the rank of Major and oversaw other units in Birmingham and Dundee. He then worked as a civilian at Stirling Lines until he retired at 65. It was a tremendous blow to him when his wife sadly died some 20 years ago but he has been very well cared for by his daughter, Helen, who stayed on to live at the family home.

Peter was always a keen gardener, growing excellent Sweet Peas in particular. He was an expert salmon and fly fisherman and generously donated a day's tuition at a Promise Auction in aid of Little Birch Church for which, John Caton successfully bid and thoroughly enjoyed. Peter died aged 83 years and was very proud of his children, Helen and Martin, to whom we send our deepest sympathy.

The funeral service and burial of **DAVID FARMER** son of Cliff Farmer of Little Birch Road, took place at Little Birch Church on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The service was conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson, the bible reading was given by David's brother, Bob, and a very moving tribute by brother, Bill.

David was born in 1952 with his identical twin, John. They appeared to be developing normally for the first 2 years but

symptoms of autism began to appear and communication and behavioural problems ensued.

Their parents, Pat and Cliff, were determined that the twins would be brought up in as normal a family life as possible, a daunting and very stressful task with no respite until some schooling became available. When they were about 8 years of age, they had their first real education at the Rudolf Steiner School at Clent, first on a day basis and later as boarders. The dedicated staff taught them socially acceptable behaviour, good table manners and a life long love of music. During periods of high stress when they couldn't make sense of the world or make themselves understood, music provided a great sense of relief and relaxation. There were visits to them every week and some weekends were spent at home. Holidays were taken with the whole family at their cottage at Taliesin, on the Welsh west coast, where the twins enjoyed swimming in the sea, gymnastics on play frames and climbing trees. On long walks on the Welsh hills, John would be leading the way ahead whilst the parents and Dee, Bill and Bob, followed on with David bringing up the rear. David tended to live in the shadow of John but he showed extraordinary memory in some games and puzzles.

When the Rudolf Steiner School could no longer care for them and there was no other care available, the twins moved into Lea Castle Mental Hospital where they lived in separate dormitories with little group activity and the neglect often staggering. In the 1990's, the

huge dormitories were replaced by smaller bedrooms, sleeping 4, with more space and some individual furniture allowed. Then came the 'Care in the Community' initiative with its long overdue recognition that those with mental health issues and other disabilities, were part of the community and should not be hidden away. For the twins, this meant a move to Castle Farm near Bartestree, a lovely house with 9 en-suite rooms and extensive grounds in which to safely play.

The twins' Aunt Madge provided continuous loving support throughout their life until her death in 1997. She was a great help at the family home in Birmingham and then visited regularly at Lea Castle and then Castle Farm. Sadly, John died in 1998 and this was a huge loss to David as John was almost his 'alter ego'. There was also great sadness for the whole family when their mother, Pat, died some 4 years ago. She had been the 'rock, for so many years.

At Castle Farm, there were many activities with an indoor swimming pool, outings to the Safari Park, near Bewdley, the 'Snoozarium' at Worcester and much loved horse riding at Holme Lacy, provided by the dedicated volunteers from 'Riding for the Disabled'. David particularly enjoyed the water and did some sailing in the Cotswolds. Occasional holidays to Devon helped give the residents a more normal life pattern and there was one memorable trip to Disneyland Paris. More recently, there were trips to London to see the sights from an 'open top' tourist bus and to see such musicals such as 'Chicago'. David and his friend,

Adrian, regularly went to church in Hereford and enjoyed tea and cakes after the service with some of the congregation. As Bill emphasised throughout his tribute, David's family also included the other residents and the devoted carers at Castle Farm. The ownership of the Farm changed last year, but the interesting activities continued with the addition of painting. David often immersed himself in the subject and proudly presented his works as special gifts to his dad. Cliff treasures these gifts, especially the painting of a large aircraft, which is exceptional. In the last year, David engaged more and more with staff and the others around him, developing his non-verbal communication, especially little glances and facial expressions, laden with meaning for those who took the trouble to understand these signals. Once a week, carers brought David to 'Bryn Arian', for a meal cooked by Cliff, which, he invariably enjoyed and was always ready for 'seconds'. David developed a real sense of humour and fun, which showed itself in his beaming smile and the family again acknowledged the great commitment of the many who cared so diligently and imaginatively for David and the 'family' at Castle Farm, making this last period one of the happiest of his life.

At appropriate times in the service, some of David's favourite music was played, including Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony and songs by Abba. His body was laid to rest with that of his brother, John, in the churchyard. Donations given in memory of David were divided

between 'Riding for the Disabled' and Little Birch Church. We send to Cliff, Dee, Bill and Bob our sincere sympathy.

Your prayers are sought for several members of our community who are suffering long term illnesses and for their family/carers. It is good to see John Wilden taking his usual walks around the locality again and that David Pennington is now home after being taken to Taunton hospital while on holiday. We send our best wishes to all these good friends.

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### **Local Police Briefings**

About once a week we send out briefings by e-mail from Peterchurch Police Station which gives information on local crime trends, suspicious vehicles to look out for and general crime prevention advice. The e-mails currently go out to around 600 people in the South Herefordshire and Golden valley areas, to farms, pubs, rural businesses and homeowners.

If you would like to receive the briefings, just send an e-mail to our team inbox, and you will be added to the list. Please note that this is just used by your Local Policing Teams at Peterchurch and your details will not be passed to anyone else!

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

0300 333 3000 ext 4820

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**Police Briefing Friday 10th June 2011 - South Herefordshire & Golden Valley**

**CRIME TRENDS**

Two primary schools have been subjected to mindless vandalism over the past week - persons made a bonfire right outside Clehonger School sometime during last weekend, causing damage to a plastic drain cover and piping beneath. The damage could be considerable but until a thorough investigation has been carried out we won't know.

St Weonards primary school was visited overnight last night, damage was caused to the security fencing, and litter was left around.

If you live near a school and hear or see anyone there outside normal hours, especially later in the evenings, please let us know. I realise some schools allow certain groups to use their facilities, but it's always worth getting it checked out. Also the subject of vandalism on more than one occasion recently is the Madley Tennis Club, where the pavilion was entered and debris and rubbish was scattered all over the place inside as well as clothing belonging to members. Several child's tennis rackets were taken. There were also many empty alcohol bottles left in the grounds. Again, please call us

if you are aware of unwelcome visitors at the club.

A black Mercedes E200 saloon M51EHP was stolen from an industrial unit in Ramsden Road, Rotherwas overnight on 2nd/3rd June.

Overnight on the same night, diesel was stolen from a lorry in Chapel Road, Rotherwas, about 35-40 gallons were stolen.

Overnight on Monday 6th/Tuesday 7th June a twin axle Ifor Williams trailer model LM146 was stolen from a paddock in Kingsthorpe, along with three new galvanised gates which were securing the paddock. The trailer was chained up about 100 yards from the owners property.

**Suspicious vehicles**

A white Ford Ranger pick-up N\*04YXU was seen at the rear of a business premises in Stoney Street, Madley, for the second time in recent weeks. The two male occupants were caught going through a skip, when challenged they made off in the vehicle.

A letter has been sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle asking him to explain his movements!

**Results**

A male was seen by staff to steal items from the auction rooms at Pontrilas, police were called and the male was arrested. It is being dealt with by way of Community

Resolution and the male will be returning other items that he had stolen previously.

This afternoon a male was seen taking items from a derelict property in Garway by a nearby resident who called police with the details of the vehicle which was just leaving the village. The vehicle was stopped in Wormelow by a patrol and found to be laden with scrap from the premises, and as I write a male is in custody 'assisting with police enquiries' - an excellent result thanks to a vigilant member of the public yet again!

Thanks for your interest -!

Fiona

**Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams**

PS 3113 Robin Davies

[robin.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:robin.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

PC 2368 Chris Lea 07855 785080

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07779 141232

CSO 6993 Kevin Powell 07779 141232

CSO 6366 James Cooke 07779 141223

CSO 6482 Katie Middleton 07779 141223

E-mail - [goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:goldenvalley.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) or

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

Non - emergency number 0300 333 3000 - please use this number to report incidents