

# Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury March 2012- First published 1977

## March Diary dates

1st. Much Birch Parish Council MBCH

7th. Little Birch Parish Council LBVH

13th. Evergreen Club AGM MBCH

10th. Book Exchange LBVH

“ Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

21st. Much Birch WI MBCH

23rd. Lent Lunch LBVH

“ Coffee & cakes MBCH

“ Annual Quiz LBVH

23rd. Village Market MBCH

25th. Wags & Wellies walk Wyevale garden centre

28th. Gardening Club AGM LBVH

29th. Easter Bingo LBVH

31st. Social evening LBVH

### April

21st. Ceilidh LBVH

21st. & 22nd. Dawn chorus walk & breakfast  
Merrivale farm & LBVH

**Andy and Sue**

Welcome you to

**THE AXE AND CLEAVER**  
**Much Birch**

Excellent food served in our spacious  
Restaurant

**SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH**  
On Wednesdays - 2 courses  
For £6.25

**SUNDAY ROAST LUNCH**  
£9.50 for 2 courses - Bookings advised

**Lovely Beer Garden** with field for Touring  
Caravans and Tents

**Tel: 01981 540203**

## **Little Birch Village Hall Annual Pantomime** **'Aladdin' A great Success**

Visitors and villagers all flocked to Little Birch Village Hall for the 3 performances of 'Aladdin' on Friday and Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of February. And WHAT A TREAT IT WAS! Every member of the cast threw their heart and soul into it and were most ably supported by the backstage 'crew'. The costumes and scenery were stunning, together with the sound effects and stage lighting. The wicked ABANAZAR stirred up the audience to boo and the 'Heroes' to cheer and the younger members of the cast played their parts beautifully. JANE BOLAM directed the pantomime this year, having played Jallopena in the 2011 performance 'Up Little Birch'. She has been involved with amateur dramatics for many years and her experience shone through in this year's show. So, CONGRATULATIONS ALL AROUND. We look forward to next year's production with eager anticipation.

Thanks to all who donated the raffle prizes and donations.

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## **FUNDRAISER FOR MUCH BIRCH PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP**

**‘COFFEE AND CAKES’  
FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 10-11.30AM  
MUCH BIRCH COMMUNITY HALL**

EVERYONE WELCOME TO JOIN US!  
RAFFLE AND PLAY AND ACTIVITIES FOR  
BABIES AND TODDLERS

### **‘Dawn Chorus Walk’ From Merrivale Farm**

The Mason Family and the Little Birch Village Hall  
Committee would like to invite all those interested in  
bird song and the arrival of spring to join the LBVH  
annual guided

‘Dawn Chorus Walk’.

**6am start from Merrivale Farm**

**On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and/or Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Followed by Traditional English Breakfast  
(Vegetarian option available)

Served at the Village Hall from 8.30a.m.

**To book please Tel: Robyn Hodges on 540264**

**Guided Walk £3 Walk plus Breakfast £6**

## **Much Birch 100 Club Draw**

The draw took place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February in  
Much Birch Community Hall at 7pm.

The winners were:

1. No 72 – Mrs J. de Caen Sharp, Fordham  
Cambridgeshire
2. No 103 – Mrs J Hounsell Much Birch

The next draw will take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March  
2012 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones – Chairman

## **Unique limited edition DVD of Life in Herefordshire. ‘An Acre a Day’**

Herefordshire men and women are the stars of AN  
ACRE A DAY, a recently released DVD of  
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## **LOCAL NEWS**

Congratulations are extended to  
SALLY NICHOL of Little Birch Road, King’s  
Thorn, in winning one of the Classes in the recent  
Ross Photographic Society Competition. Sally was  
also one of the ‘sound crew’ in the Village  
Pantomime.

Our sincere condolences go to the family of  
Mrs ADA MUNN of Much Birch who recently  
passed away in her 100<sup>th</sup> year. Her son Carl, has  
given her the utmost care, particularly in recent  
years.

A number of generous donations to the Newsletter  
have been received since Christmas and these are  
gratefully acknowledged.

Many congratulations to Ruth Sherlock of

Much Birch for her nomination to the shortlist for Young Journalist of The Year in the National Press Awards 2011. Ruth attended the Hereford Waldorf School (now the Hereford Steiner Academy) in Much Dewchurch, before obtaining her degree at Durham University.

As 'Our Own Correspondent' Ruth has written articles describing events in Israel, The Occupied Territories, Egypt and Libya. Ruth is currently working for the Daily Telegraph.

Parents Donatella and Huw, and Ruth's friends and neighbours are all very proud of her and wish her continued success in her chosen career.

Quite a number of friends in the community have recently been in hospital for operations or treatment and we send our best wishes for successful recoveries. Mrs JUNE GLOVER of Much Birch is now in care at Brockhampton Court and would welcome visits from friends.

We trust she will be comfortable in her new surroundings.

The final Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Witness of the Methodist Chapel will be held at 3pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Although a very sad occasion, it would be good to have a 'Full House' for this service.

Little Birch Lent Lunch will be held on

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Little Birch Village Hall From 12.30 – 1.45pm. There will be a selection of 4 soups with cheese and usual tomatoes, celery etc. to follow. All proceeds go to SIGHTSAVERS INTERNATIONAL. Please support this very worthwhile charity.

## MURPHY'S PAW



### DOG WALKING SERVICE

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07519 643546

### Important notice – changes to local bus services

Herefordshire public transport news. There have been changes which will affect services 81, 81A, 447 and 449 from 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Also services 32,33,35 and 36 from 4<sup>th</sup> March. New Market Day service from Mordiford and Fownhope to Ross-on-Wye and Ross Labels. For full details please go to

<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport/publictransport/3194.asp>

A bus timetable with details of all services in Herefordshire can also be purchased for a very nominal sum in the Hereford Library.

The 411 serving, Little Birch, continues to operate on Wednesdays from the Castle Inn at 10.22 am. returning from Hereford bus station at 13.20

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### Little Birch and King's Thorn Gardening Club

On Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> March, the AGM will take place at 7.30pm, in Little Birch Village Hall. The meeting will include the programme of Speakers and proposed summer visits to gardens and will finish with a fun quiz.

New members will be warmly welcomed.

John Bryant 540316





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FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

REA 

### Update on Winter Self-Help Gritting Scheme

Disappointingly, Little Birch & Much Birch Parish Councils have not been able to progress with the Winter Self Help Gritting Scheme as had been hoped. Everything was in place but when the contractor went out for the first time, the grit did not spread evenly across the road as it should have done. Discussions followed, both with the supplier of the towed gritting machine, and the supplier of the salt/grit, Amey. It seems that despite the towed gritting machine being advertised as being suitable for all types of material, including brown road salt, this was, in reality, not the case. The machine has therefore been returned to the company who supplied it, with no financial loss to Much Birch Parish Council.

Discussions are continuing as to how to progress the project, and further updates will be given. This is as was said previously, an experimental project, with everyone on a learning curve. There were bound to be snags. In the meantime, an eye is being kept on the levels of grit/salt in the roadside bins, and if one near you needs restocking, please contact either of the Clerks.

You are asked to take care, wearing high visibility clothing if possible, should you decide at your own

risk, to spread grit/salt on the road near your house. Please remember that in order to be most effective, the grit/salt need only be spread at the rate of one small handful per square meter/yard. Thank you to those community minded folk who take the trouble to help in this way.

Mike Morley, Chairman Little Birch Parish Council  
– as an individual councillor

Alison Cook, Vice Chair, Much Birch Parish Council  
– as an individual councillor



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### Good News-The Castle Inn re-opens

We are delighted to see that the Castle Inn has re-opened. We welcome Paul and his family to the village. There was a packed and successful opening night last Friday (17<sup>th</sup>). We are so pleased to have this community meeting place open again and look forward to many happy get-togethers, good meals and events into the foreseeable future. Remember your support will ensure The Castle's success.

### Whist Drive

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 13 March** in Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at **7.30.p.m.** The entrance fee is £1.50. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

**Little Birch Village Hall Quiz Night.  
Friday 23 March 2012**

An invitation to everyone, individuals and groups to join in an evening of fun as we seek a winning team for the LBVH 2012 Quiz challenge. Teams of 4 are asked to book in at 7.15 ( for a 7.30 start) but if you aren't yet part of a full team we will be pleased to link you up with others on arrival .

**Entrance. £5 per team**

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**Report from the Much Birch Parish Council  
Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Andrew Crum. Declarations of interest were declared by Cllr. Mike Smith and Chairman Dave Davies. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December and the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January were signed as true records.

The Chairman decided to move forward an agenda item to enable public participation. The item was a planning application for the construction of three lagoons in a field on the north-east side of the B4348 opposite Gamber

Head Cottages. The normal time of 10 minutes was extended so as to allow members of the public to address the Council on this matter. The Chairman then re-opened the meeting and there was a resolution 'not to support' the application.

A detailed report was given by Ward Councillor Mr. Russell B. Hamilton on matters such as Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Herefordshire's Diamond Day celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> July to include a major event at King George V Playing Fields. The aim is to provide a picture of all that is best in our communities. His full report can be found on the Much Birch Parish website [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk)

The Clerk gave an update on all action items. The Financial report was noted and all payments listed were approved. Cllr. Turner's report was given on the Memorial Clock at Much Birch Church, and the issue of financial help toward the maintenance of the clock was considered. The Clerk was asked to research the matter further and report back to the Parish Council. Mr. Brimacombe's report on The Poor's Acre was received and noted.

Due to the complexity of the scheme, it was decided not to apply for the Community Technology Grant. It was also decided not to participate as a Parish Council with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacon programme. However, after an invitation from Little Birch Parish Council Chairman Mike Morley, Cllr. Sims volunteered to see if there was a way in which Much Birch Parishioners could participate in the efforts being made by Little Birch Village Hall Committee to build a beacon.

Two further planning applications were considered; proposed conversion of stone barn and adjoining outbuildings to residential use at Treberva Farm, and the erection of a detached double garage at Highland Cottage, Parish Lane, Much Birch. The Council has commented 'no objections' to both applications.

Thanks were recorded to Cllr. Hamilton for his assistance in ensuring that re-surfacing works will be carried out to the top end of Hollybush Lane as part of the current programme of road works.

An update was given on the Winter Self-Help Gritting Scheme, and the Clerk of Much Birch Parish Council and the Chairman of Little Birch



Parish Council thanked for their hard work to date.

A copy of the revised Standing Orders from HALC was given to each Councillor for perusal and discussion at a further meeting.

The correspondence sheet was noted and the Clerk asked to attend the offices of the Parish Council's solicitors to sign documents finalising the sale of the strip of land at Rosebank.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 7.30p.m. at Much Birch Community Hall. All Welcome.**

***Please note that this is not the official record of the meeting. The minutes of a Parish Council meeting are the official record, and these only, once signed at the next meeting as a true record.***

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**MUCH BIRCH  
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#### Attention all Jazz Lovers

Lovers of traditional Jazz will be delighted to hear that Europe's No1 cornet player Rod Mason will be back in Hereford on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March with his popular Hot five Band.

They will be performing at The National College for The Blind in Hereford.

Tickets £16 available on 01432 376371, email [louise.watts@rncb.ac.uk](mailto:louise.watts@rncb.ac.uk) or from The Outback, Church Street, Hereford.

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#### Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Little Birch and King's Thorn are in the process of planning events to help celebrate this momentous occasion. There are to be events on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday June 4<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday we are planning a procession, a Jubilee Tea with entertainments and a Jubilee Disco in the village hall. On the Monday there will be a picnic followed by children's fun and games, possibly a tug-of-war, then a barbecue with musical entertainment finishing with the lighting of a beacon. All this in the field behind the village hall by kind permission of the Dillons.

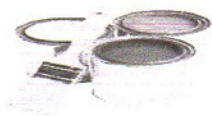
To help finance this occasion we have a couple of other events coming up

On **Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>** there will be a **Social Evening** in Little Birch Village Hall. Entertaining us will be John Jones and Ray Ingram playing us many familiar songs which they will insist we sing along to (words to be provided!). Becci Cameron will also entertain us with her own songs. Entry will be £3.00 per person and nibbles will be provided. Come along and have fun!

On **Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>** there will be a special **Monarchy Quiz**. Teams up to 6, £2.00 each. Start revising your history now!! More details later

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## Much Birch WI

On March 20th we welcome one of our own members, Nicola Salter, who will tell us how to make our own jewellery.

WI meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382, for further details.

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## Much Birch Village Market

As usual the Market will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm and 4.30pm

We have a regular group of local suppliers, including Moor Meals, The Squeaky Pig, and Llandinabo Farm Shop with meat (sausage, pork, Dexter beef, free range chicken etc.) Mark makes chutney and jams. Cheese is provided by Castle Cheese and home-made, filled pancakes by Anthea. In addition there is a Fair Trade stall.

We also have a craft stall, and Dan, who sharpens knives, garden tools and patchworker's rotary cutter blades!

Much Birch WI has a book stall, raising money for their charity of the year. This year the charity is the Cobalt Trust, a cancer charity

Refreshments are sold in aid of  
MacMillan Cancer Support.



## POWER YOGA

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**On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012 at Little Birch  
Village Hall.**

**Tickets: Adults (over 14): £5.00**

**Under 14s      £3.00**

**Bonus deal: Family ticket ( 2 adults and 2 under  
14s) just £15**

**Tickets available from Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

**From: James Gould 01981 540676.**

**John Bryant 01981 540316.**

**John Caton 01981 540267.**

**(All proceeds in aid of Little Birch Parish  
church).**

Any food contributions for a bring and share supper  
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**\*Bar \*Raffle \*Fun for all the family.**

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### April Newsletter

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## FLICKS IN THE STICKS

### at Much Birch Community Hall

**Saturday 10th March at 2.30 pm *matinee* -  
ARRIETTY U**

Inspired by The Borrowers, this sees the classic children's tale  
transported to a sprawling mansion set in a magical, overgrown  
garden in Tokyo. Beneath the floorboards tiny Arrietty lives with  
her equally tiny parents "borrowing" everything they need.  
From the makers of *Ponyo* this is an enchanting animated tale  
that has the faith in the pure of heart and ravishing visual style  
of *Studio Ghibli* at its best.

**Wednesday 28th March 7.30pm -  
RESISTANCE PG**

Set in 1944 in German-occupied Britain, this is the story of the  
women of an isolated village who wake up to discover that their  
husbands have all mysteriously vanished to become part of the  
secret British resistance. *Based on Owen Sheers widely-  
acclaimed novel, much of the film was shot locally in the Orcop  
valley and on locations around Herefordshire and  
Monmouthshire.*

**Refreshments including hotdogs available from  
2pm/7pm**

**For further information about films and screenings  
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**Tickets £4 (£3 under 16s)**

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### Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be  
on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 10-12a.m. at Little Birch  
Village Hall.** A large selection of books to suit all  
ages and a variety of interests will be available as  
well as an opportunity to meet others over a cup of  
tea/coffee. There is a charge of £1 per adult towards  
the cost of hall hire, heating and refreshments. We  
look forward to seeing you there. Thanks to the  
people who helped get the project off the ground.  
The February meeting was well attended and the  
book selection increases every month.





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## Police Briefing South Herefordshire & Golden Valley from Fiona Witcher

### Crime Trends

A battery was stolen from a tractor on a building site in Blakemere between 12noon on Thursday 2nd and 10.00 on Saturday 4th February. Incident number 306-s-040212

Between 6pm and 8pm on Friday 3rd February, three cases of wine were stolen from outside a property in Harewood End. the boxes were there during the time that the owner was moving into the property. Some of the wines were vintage, and quite valuable. Incident number 276-s-040212 refers.

On Monday 6th February a topiary in a large pot was stolen from outside a house on Garway Hill. The topiary, which was of a bear, was stolen between 5am and 5pm whilst the occupant was at work. It was a very heavy object and would have taken more than one person to steal it. Please quote incident 599-s-060212 if you have any information.

Sometime during the past week, about 500 gallons of heating oil was stolen from an industrial workshop at Gooses Foot, Kingstone. Incident number 335-s-090212 refers.

This afternoon (Friday 10th February) between 12noon and 1pm an Ifor Williams trailer was stolen from the auction site at Stoney Street, Madley. It is a small trailer, 10' x 4' with the registration number DK08MTF, although that's probably been taken off by now. Incident number 118-N-100212 refers.

### Heating Oil Thefts

There have been several reports of central heating oil being stolen over the past few weeks, often the theft is only discovered once the oil has run out unexpectedly. This is obviously not something you'd want to happen at this time of year, and be without heating until a delivery can be arranged. Please check the level in your tank regularly, there are monitors that you can buy quite cheaply from DIY stores that can be plugged in inside your home so you can see how much oil is left in your tank. There are also ones fitted with alarms that sound if the oil level drops quickly.

West Mercia Police have produced a leaflet giving advice on security of heating oil tanks, if you would like one, either electronically or by post, please let me know.

### **SmartWater.**

For new recipients of the briefings - SmartWater is a unique property marking solution which is a proven deterrent, and can be obtained from your local policing team at a cost of £25 per kit. Please get in touch if you are interested in knowing more, one of us will call round at your convenience and show how it works.

The SmartWater website includes a Newsletter that shows how useful it can be for recovering stolen property.

### **Speed Enforcement**

We often get complaints about speeding, especially through the villages, and PC Lea does carry out speed enforcement as and when he can. In the past couple of weeks he and CSO Cooke have been in Holme Lacy and on Haywood Lane, and PC Lea has issued several tickets. They will be carrying out more checks in the next few weeks in other locations.

If you have concerns about speeding traffic in your area, PC Lea is happy to speak to you about it, so please get in touch.

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams

PS 3236 Dave Boote

dave.boote@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

PC 2368 Chris Lea 07855 785080

PC 2176 Wendy Powell 07811 131525

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07779 141232

CSO 6366 James Cooke 07779 141223

CSO 6482 Katie Middleton 07779 141223

E-mail -

goldenvally.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Non emergency number 101 or 0300 333 3000

### **The Evergreen Club**

The Annual General Meeting of the Evergreen Club will be held on Tuesday, 13 March, 2012, at Much Birch Community Hall, commencing at 2.30pm. It will be followed by tea, biscuits and the chance to chat. All are welcome.

### **Special Easter Bingo at Little Birch Village hall.**

Thursday 29 March. 8 pm start.

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### **Wags and Wellies**

25/03/12

Starting and finishing at Wyevale Garden Centre  
**Dog Walk**

(10am Registration 11 am start)

Wags and Wellies is a 5km sponsored dog walk taking a scenic route through fields, woodland and strolling down country lanes. The walk starts and finishes at Wyevale Garden Centre, Hereford. There will be refreshments available half way, at Breinton Village Hall. All those who complete the walk will receive a St Michael's Hospice dog tag medal and a doggy goodie bag. Registration starts at 10:00am for a 11:00am start. Pre-entry is £5 adults, £3 children, on the day entry is £7 adults and £5 children. All entries are per person, not per dog.

Not only do we have the walk BUT we also have the fabulous Paws for Thought Dog Display Team performing at 12:30pm! Followed by the chance to display your dogs talents in the Have a go agility, fly ball and doggy dash events. There is also a just for fun dog show - all £1 a go! The dog shows categories will be Most Handsome Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Dog with the waggiest tail, dog most like its owner, best trick and best junior handler. Entries must be at the ringside by 1:00pm.

Enter the Dog Walk by contacting the events team on 01432 851000 or email [info@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](mailto:info@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk)

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