



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

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

## Diary dates

### May

28th. Duchy walk from LBVH

30th. Gardening Club LBVH

### June

2nd. Diamond Jubilee celebrations LBVH

3rd. Diamond Jubilee celebrations MBCH

4th. Diamond Jubilee celebrations LBVH

7th. Much Birch PC MBCH

9th & 10th. Garden Festival MuchMarcle

12th Whist Drive LBVH

### July Newsletter

**Please send copy for May Newsletter to  
birchesnews@gmail.com or written contributions  
to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow Aconbury  
Close by 18th. June**

### Readers Letters

The editor received a letter from a reader in May that perhaps expresses a real concern of local people. Surprisingly it was not about the Diamond Jubilee, European football, the Olympic games or even the world financial problems. Instead it contained the following:

*Blast the bl—dy Blandford fly*

*With me it really rankles*

*That while she could have stayed at home*

*She now bites local ankles!*

### Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The programme for local activities is attached to the front of this Newsletter. The organising Committee hopes that a good time will be had by all but please be careful to avoid annoyance to nearby residents particularly after the beacon in the Glebe field.

### June

19th. Much Birch WI

22nd. Village market MBCH

23rd. Violet Szabo Gathering Wormelow

27th. Gardening Club Visit

### July

3rd. Little Birch VH AGM

4th. Little Birch PC LBVH

5th. Much Birch PC MBCH

14th. Little Birch Church Fete Old Rectory

### Monarchy Quiz LBVH May 18<sup>th</sup>.

We found that we knew a lot more history than we had thought. The winning team answered 96 questions out of a possible 102. The quiz was an enjoyable event thanks to question-master Des Clarke and Alison who set the questions. The money raised will help towards the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June. Thanks to all who participated and helped with organisation and refreshments.

### Little Birch Community Led Plan

The questionnaires answered last autumn were analysed by the Herefordshire Council and the results presented by the steering committee in the village hall on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Attendance at the meeting was disappointing. Herefordshire Community First commended the presentation and will use it as a training aid in other parishes. Electronic copies of the Herefordshire Council report and the presentation can be obtained on request by emailing [birchesnews@gmail.com](mailto:birchesnews@gmail.com).

The steering group will incorporate the results into a plan and make recommendations by the end of the year.



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### Local News

Congratulations are extended to **Will White** of King's Thorn, who plays the clarinet and who won this year's Hereford Police Male Choir young musician's bursary. Will is studying music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and took the £850 bursary prize after competing against 6 other highly talented musicians, who included **Sandie Middleton** of Little Birch. We send our best wishes to Will and Sandie as they continue in their studies.

St. David's Church in Much Dewchurch was full and overflowing with the family and many friends of the late **Steven Holley** for a Service of Celebration of Steven's Life. Steven was only 39 years of age but he had lived a very full life and had planned to marry his partner Claire later this year. His life was centred around his children and Claire but music and motorbikes came a close second. Tributes were read from his mother, Eileen, and brother Andy, composed a light hearted poem outlining their early life together. We send our sincere condolences to them all.

As reported last month, **Mary Enoch** sadly passed away on 21<sup>st</sup>. April. The Service of Thanksgiving for Her Life took place at St. Johns, Kings Caple

on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and was conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson who had visited her frequently in hospital and the hospice to give communion. Mary was born at Abersoch on the Llyn Peninsula and attended local schools. She was accepted for training at Bangor University and qualified as a teacher in Needlework and Dressmaking.

Mary met David as he was also studying there for a BA in Philosophy and French. They married 2 years later but David stayed on to take a Diploma in Theology. Mary returned to Abersoch whilst David started his National Service in the Army Intelligence Corps, mainly based at what is now known as GCHQ in Cheltenham. During this time, Huw was born and Ann followed in 1957.

David began his teaching career in Liverpool and Mary did some teaching at the same school at Seaton. Up until this time, Welsh was always spoken at home but Huw and Ann soon picked up English as they mixed with other children. David and Mary were dedicated to preserving the Welsh language and the family always conversed in their native tongue, so that today, Huw and Ann are fluent in Welsh. As David searched for more rewarding positions, the family moved quite frequently, usually within the counties of Cheshire and Shropshire and it has been said that they more or less had a moving van on standby. Mary usually taught at schools in the area in which they happened to be living. David returned to Bangor again and successfully obtained an MA in English Literature and this led to an appointment in the Education Dept. of the BBC, covering schools in North Wales.

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When David was promoted to cover all schools throughout Wales, David and Mary bought 'Fayre Oaks' on the Barrack Hill and moved here in 1979. David was elected churchwarden at St. Mary's, Little Birch in 1980 and Mary was later appointed as 'Sacristan' and for some 5 years kept the altar linen in pristine condition, having expertly made altar

cloths and other items, which are still in use at the present time.

Ann was married to Ian Clelland in 1981 and they were later blessed with 2 daughters, Sarah and Becky. David retired from the BBC in the mid 1980's and began training for the Ministry, and also gathered a nucleus of people interested in gardening to form the Little Birch and King's Thorn Gardening Club in 1984. Mary and David were blessed with good soprano and tenor voices and sang together in the local Renaissance Choir and Mary made period costumes for many of their performances. They delivered Meals on Wheels together and transported elderly residents to the 'Pop in Club', which at that time was held in Much Dewchurch Village Hall. Huw was still living at home and became an oil engineer and qualified gas fitter and as most will know, built up a very good business. Ann obtained her BA also at Bangor and is currently Head of the English Dept at Whitecross High School. David was ordained Deacon and then Priest in 1992 and assisted the clergy in the Much Birch Group of Parishes. He was appointed Rector of the King's Cople Group of Parishes in 1994 and the family moved into the rectory there. Ably assisted by Mary, they built up the congregations in the 7 churches and Fawley Chapel. Mary kept David's vestments in immaculate condition and made most of his priest's stoles.

They retired to 'Bryn Glas' in Little Dewchurch in 2000 and set about furnishing their new home and delighted in the visits of Sarah and Becky.

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Sarah graduated in English at Manchester and Becky completed a course at Hereford Art College. DIY was not David's forte and having an extensive library, fitted out his study with several tall bookcases. One night in the early hours, there was an almighty bang. David and Mary leapt out of bed fearing an earthquake, only to find that David had overloaded one of the bookcases and not fixed it to the wall, so that it toppled over bringing other units

with it. Mary and David shared a great interest in old clocks and had so many that each showed a slightly different time so that they did not all chime together, otherwise the noise was deafening.

**Andy and Sue**

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Sadly, David became ill in 2002 and died in April 2003. With the support of the family and Huw's often twice daily visits, Mary gradually adjusted to living on her own. Dogs were always part of the family and Mary derived great comfort from her 'Sheltie' dogs, Sally for some 8 years and latterly, 'Bella'. Mary was always smartly dressed and made her own clothes. She avidly completed the Telegraph crossword each day and relaxed by playing the piano and singing hymns. She was a member of the Over 60's Club in Little Dewchurch and attended services at St. David's and Fawley Chapel. Fortunately, she was able to drive, do her own shopping in Hereford and meet up with friends and Ann for coffee. Mary always thought long and hard before buying birthday or Christmas presents and always gave something that was practical and useful for the intended recipient. Mary and Becky visited the Butterfly Centre at Symond's Yat on one occasion and so



enjoyed photographing there that Mary was delighted when Becky started her degree course in Marine and Wildlife Photography at Falmouth. Mary became ill soon after Christmas but bore her illness with great dignity although the pain was very distressing. While in the County Hospital, Sarah and her partner, Daniel, announced their engagement, which greatly pleased Mary. She moved to St. Michael's Hospice when a bed became available where the nursing was second to none and her pain fairly well controlled.. She died peacefully on April 21<sup>st</sup>. just one day before the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of David's passing.

So we say farewell to a lovely lady, mother, grandmother and friend to so many. Mary's faith in God was unwavering and strong to the end and she looked forward to being reunited with David. We send our sincere sympathies to Huw, Ann, Ian, Sarah, Daniel and Becky.



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**Amanda Hamilton**

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A Service to Celebrate the Life of **Joan Lilian Randall** took place at Much Birch Church on Wed. May 9<sup>th</sup> and was conducted by Rev Mark Johnson and Rev. Preb Kay Garlick, who gave the address. Michael, Chris and Linda all took part in readings. Joan was born and brought up in Wellingborough, Northants with her sister, Helen and was a member

of the Youth Club at St. Mary's Church. During WW2, the family moved to Exmouth and Joan's first job was in a local solicitor's office. She met Colin at a dance in Exeter and they were married 3 years later. They moved to Ruislip and rented a room for a while before moving into a caravan, so that they could save up to buy a house. Their first house was in Hayes, where Michael was born and then a few years later, a move to St. Albans where Chris was born. In 1965, Colin was appointed to look after the Schools Section of the Hereford County Library and the family moved to 'Gadebridge' in Wrigglesbrook, where Linda was born to complete the family. Joan and Colin and the family all attended Much Birch Church and Joan did secretarial work for Rev. John Pitchford and for some 20 years, typed up and laid out all the material for the Church group magazine, a fine record of service! As her children got a bit older, Joan took up a secretarial appointment in a Hereford solicitor's office and also helped Mr. Gittings-Jones, a local surveyor. Later, she was appointed school secretary first at St. Martins and then at Bishop's School, where she was PA to two successive head teachers.

Her experience and interest in education was invaluable when she became a governor at Much Birch School. Colin and Joan delivered Meals on Wheels for some 13 years after they retired.

Joan loved to sing and she joined the Birch Singers under Bill Mattingley and she encouraged her children to sing in the Church choir. When Kay took over the choir, the tradition of men and children only as members still persisted but Joan led a deputation of mothers to say that they thought it most unfair that they could not join in. Joan could be very firm when she felt a situation was not right and Kay immediately concurred. Joan not only enjoyed the weekly singing but also the friendships, outings, weddings and other special occasions.

## *Zea Cleaning.*

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She was a member of the choir for some 30 years and like others, worked tirelessly to keep the Church in good condition and to support all aspects of ministry – to children, to newcomers and to the Church community itself. She served on the PCC for many years and was Treasurer until a few weeks before her death.

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Joan was constantly described as a lovely lady with a broad 'trademark' smile and she did give and receive much love throughout her life. Joan always gave her family her full attention and encouraged and supported them in all they wanted to do. She was particularly keen that they should join in local uniformed groups and so Chris and Michael were Cubs and Scouts and Linda with Kate(Dymott) joined the Brownies.

The family always enjoyed holidays in their camper van, visiting France, Italy and Switzerland and their beloved Pembrokeshire. Joan was very adventurous in swimming, canoeing and body boarding until recently. The children were all married in due time and Joan delighted in her 10 grandchildren (5boys and 5 girls), who described her as 'supergran', always ready to play games and the only adult who would go into the sea to swim on a really cold day! Michael remembers Joan sitting in the campervan at Aberreiddy surrounded by the grandchildren, teaching them all to knit. Joan lived life to the full and when her illness was diagnosed, she determined to fill any time she was given and for nearly ten years, she has done just that. She has always been completely open and honest about her illness and has shown such courage and faith throughout. Joan had no fear of death and her faith in her Lord was enduring to the end. So, we say farewell to a very brave and lovely lady who even in the last few days at St. Michael's Hospice still greeted visitors with that lovely smile and a hug. We send to Colin, to Michael with Leo, Alan, Colina and St. Helene, to Chris with Josh, Lauren and Harry and to Linda with

Bethany, Tom and Lily and their respective wives and husband, our sincerest sympathy.

The sudden death of Bill Horton has just been announced and a tribute will be given next month. A number of local friends are currently receiving hospital treatment both in Hereford and at Cheltenham and we ask you to remember them and their families in your prayers.

### Church Fete

St Marys Church Little Birch will be holding their Summer Fete on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July at the Old Rectory, Little Birch Any offers of help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Pauline Rogers on 541201, John Caton on 540267, James Gould on 540676, Steve Turner 540090 or John Bryant on 540316. Offers of books, particularly for children would be welcome. Please call Jane Rodd on 01981 541353



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### Whist Drive

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 12 June** in Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at **7.30.p.m.** The entrance fee is £2.00. (In line with other local Whist groups). Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.



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#### Little Birch and Kings Thorn Gardening Club

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 in LBVH Kate Williams will entertain us with a light hearted evening of punchy poetry and music on a wildlife theme. **Kate is the new Pam Ayres!** This promises to be a really fun evening.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> we have arranged an evening visit to Sheildbrook Sculpture Garden, Kings Caple. Miss Susan Sharp will give a guided tour through the garden and give a talk on the 'Creation of a Sculpture Garden Meet at the Kings Thorn bus shelter at 6.30pm to arrive at the garden for 7pm. £5 per person to include tea and biscuits.

On July 25<sup>th</sup> we have planned a daytime visit to Dewstow Gardens, Carwent, 5 miles west of Chepstow. To book and for further information please contact John Bryant on 540316

#### Little Birch Village Hall AGM

An invitation is extended to members of the community who wish to attend the **Annual General Meeting** of the LBVH management Committee to be held on **Tuesday 3 July** at 7.30p.m. (The twelve people who expressed an interest in helping to manage the village hall in answering the community led questionnaire last year will be especially welcome).

#### Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI takes place in Much Birch Community Hall, signed just off the A49, on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Sue Watkins telling us about the Ross Community First Responders. Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

Please ring Kath, 01981 540382, if you would like to know more about Much Birch WI.



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#### Much Birch Village Market

The Village Market takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month in Much Birch Community Hall, signed just off the A49, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

On **June 22nd** we hope be welcoming our usual local suppliers: the award winning Squeaky Pig, producers of rare breed pork and delicious sausage (including Gluten Free, made to order); the award winning Moor Meals, producers of Dexter beef, ready meals and pies; Jane Symonds represents Llandinabo Farm Shop, bringing, among other things, chicken, duck, and lamb; Castle Cheese, Mr. G's chutneys, jams and pickles; Anthea brings filled pancakes and pâté.

After many requests we now have a vegetable stall again. However, as with all our stall holders, it is a case of 'use it or lose it'.

There is a Fair Trade stand and a craft stand. Dan will, hopefully, be along to sharpen knives and garden tools.  
 Much Birch WI has a book stall, raising money for The Cobalt Trust, its Charity of the Year.  
 Refreshments are made and sold by Chris and Peter, all the proceeds of which go to McMillan Cancer Support.  
 Our Village Market needs your support in order to continue bringing local food to Much Birch.  
 For further details, please contact Kath, 01981 540382

### THE GARDEN FESTIVAL

Saturday 9 June 10am to 5pm,  
 Sunday 10 June, 10 to 4pm.  
 Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, Herefordshire.

With summer set to arrive very soon, The Garden Festival, now in its 6th year, beckons on our gardening calendars. It is a unique Festival, appealing to all sorts of people - whether keen gardeners or not. It is hosted in the beautiful grounds of Hellens Manor, and with over 60 exhibitors offering a diverse range of plants and garden related services and products, it is a must-visit event.

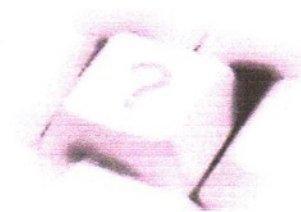
This year we are pleased to be supporting St Michael's Hospice as our main beneficiary, and our Exhibitors will be giving generously to the Grand Raffle in further support of the Hospice.  
 To find out more about the talks and discussions and their times, and to see all our exhibitors and attractions, please visit our website for further details.  
 Admission details are: Adult £6.00, Child £2.50 and a Family Ticket £12.00 (2 adults and 2 children).  
 We look forward to welcoming you to The Garden Festival in June. [www.thegardenfestival.co.uk](http://www.thegardenfestival.co.uk)

### Much Birch ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, parishioners heard the Chairman's report which detailed the work of the Parish Council over the past year. Three new councillors joined the council over the past year and all councillors were thanked for their work and effort over the past year. Thanks were also expressed to the temporary clerk support provided by Herefordshire Association of Local Councils and the work of Mo Ross as Parish Clerk over the past six months. The lengthsman scheme is continuing to work well through a grant from Herefordshire Council to ensure minor highway work is carried out. The Parish Council reports problems with the highway network such as potholes, drainage problems, or signage. Several new grit bins have been purchased by the parish council to allow residents to help themselves during poor weather.

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The Parish Council also participated in the winter gritting programme this year and will be looking to purchase a gritter than will allow contractors to grit side roads within the parish.

Councillor Hamilton highlighted issues from the ward report which will be available on the website [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk). The webmaster provided an overview of the website usage and was thanked for his time in providing this useful resource. A parishioner raised a regular surface water flooding problem along with B4348.

#### **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council -**

Councillor Dave Davies was re-elected as Chairman, with Councillor Alison Cook as Vice-Chairman. CSO Witcher provided an Annual Report which can be viewed on the website. Details of a possible tarmacking scam was highlighted. Councillors agreed to provide a grant to Much Birch PCC as a contribution towards grass cutting. The Parish Council would also provide a grant to support the maintenance of the War Memorial Clock at Much Birch church. The clerk would follow up the defects reported to Amey last month and would request that the Japanese knotweed on Parish Lane would be removed.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm** at Much Birch Community Hall. Please see notice boards and website for agendas.

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#### **Report of the Little Birch Parish Annual and Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012**

Mr. M. Morley was duly elected as chairman with Mrs A Clarke proposing and Mr J Dillon seconding followed by an unanimous vote by all the Parish Councillors.

Mrs. E. Godding reminded the Parish Council that personal interests should be declared as well as financial. To this end Mr. J. Dillon declared an interest as he owns a property down the Holy Thorn Lane.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were read and signed as a true record.

#### **Annual Meeting Items**

**Chairman's Report** - Mr. M. Morley summarised the six Parish Council meetings and one extraordinary meeting, calculating an 88% attendance rate for all Parish Councillors, with Cllr. R. Hamilton attending two and West Mercia Police attending five. Mr. M. Morley congratulated the Village Hall Management Committee on its good work in maintaining the Village Hall, stating the successful events in the last year. The continued high standard of the Newsletter was compounded with 90% of Little Birch Parishioners stating that they get their information from this source, as summarised by the results of the Parish Plan questionnaires. The latter has been seen to be progressing well with all the results fed back to the Community. Mr. M. Morley expressed his wish for the Parish Council to continue with the joint Winter Gritting project with Much Birch Parish Council and now that the Parish Field has finally been cleared to continue working with local residents to use this asset for the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations with its future to be set in the Parish Plan. Finally Mr. M. Morley thanked the Parish Clerk for her diligence over the last seven years.

**Annual Financial Report** - The Parish Council's books were available for inspection and the Clerk issued details of the 2011/2012 accounts. £1874.16 is to be carried forward to the 2012/13 financial year which is split with £1823.80 deposited in the current account and £50.36 in the savings account. Removing the allocated Lengthsman and Parish Plan coffers, the Parish Council has £317.21 to spend with £50.36 held in the Savings Account.

**Village Hall Report** - It was reported that the Village Hall has continued with its good fund raising activities including the very successful Pantomime and Private Hire going well. New activities including the book exchange were also taking off. All outstanding repairs have been completed.

#### **Parish Council Meeting Matters Arising**

**From previous minutes**, communication on how comments are made to Herefordshire Council on Planning Applications were clarified. All Parish Councillors examined the boundary of the Parish



Field, further clarification needed and the Parish Council are awaiting a map from Mr. J. Bryant. Clerk asked to search for 'old boxes' which may contain historical information concerning the Parish Field. Notification has been received that the Beacon has to be lit at 10:26pm for the Queen's Jubilee.

**Police Update** – CSO. F. Witcher reported no crimes for this area with crime figures distributed for the Ward and described the current structure for Local Policing in the area.

**County Councillor's Update** – No correspondence received from Cllr. R. Hamilton.

**Village Hall** – Comments were made during the Annual Meeting.

**Parish Lengthsman Scheme** – Invoice received for £187.00. The Lengthsman reported blocked drains and ditches down Wrigglebrook Pitch.

**Winter Gritting** – A meeting between Much Birch and Little Birch Parish Council's Working Groups to be arranged.

**Parish Initiative (PC-Iris)** – Besides the defects reported via the Lengthsman, no further defects to be reported.

**Community Led Plan** – The Steering Group organised a feedback meeting on 26th April which was poorly attended. It was agreed that residents can request electronic copies of the questionnaire results via the Newsletter.

**Parish Field** – 3 suggestions were obtained from the Parish Plan evening. The Jubilee Committee has requested that a small area of the Parish Field to be used to plant a tree, to bury a time capsule and to place a bench, for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

**Parish Precept** – The first ½ precept has been received.

**The Castle Inn** – It was agreed that the recent news of a new landlord leasing the pub was very positive.

**Queens Jubilee** – Activities previously stated.

**Training Courses** – No training courses booked.

**Holy Thorn Lane (Blackheart Lane)** – A letter has been received from a resident which was discussed in detail. Clerk to contact Amey for a copy of their inspection report and to request a 'No Through Road' sign to prevent vehicle satellite navigation from directing drivers down this lane. Clerk to send a copy to the resident.

**Clerk Vacancy** – Mrs. S. Glover has agreed to take over the role of Parish Clerk on 1st June 2012 subject to approved contracts.

**Footpaths** – Clerk to contact the Ramblers Association to request a survey to be completed on our footpaths.

**W.M.  
PARTINGTON**

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**Planning** - Planning Application for Rosebank, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AZ for garage and stores - S121033/FH returned with no objections.

Planning Application for New Mills Farm, Hoarwithy, Herefordshire, HR2 6QW to replace existing windows with narrow glazing bar casement windows, painted, repair timber frame, repair/replace brick panels - S120438/L returned with no objections.

**Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 4th July 2012

### **Violette Szabo GC**

The twelfth memorial gathering will be at 2 p.m. on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Cartref House Wormelow. If you would care to join us you would be most welcome! Please help by bringing items to add to the refreshments, also garden chairs and a folding table. If you might be kind enough to give a little help before or on the day it would be much appreciated! Please remember that she gave her very young life- 23 years old-for us all. Contact Rosemary E. Rigby 01981 540477.

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## **Police Briefing Saturday 5th May 2012** **South Herefordshire & Golden Valley**

For full details of police briefing and crime trends please visit [www.muchbirchparish.org](http://www.muchbirchparish.org)

### **LOCAL CRIME**

Sometime in the three weeks leading up to 26th April, two stone garden ornaments were taken from a front garden in Madley. One of the figures was a young boy wearing a floppy hat, and the other was a lady. Both were about 2' tall. Incident ref 596-s-260412

Three sheds in Holme Lacy were broken into overnight on Monday 30th April/Tuesday 1st May, and a large number of items were stolen including a ride-on lawnmower, several other mowers, chainsaws, strimmers and a set of golf clubs. The offenders approached the properties across fields at the rear. There was also an attempt made to steal a Landrover. Incident ref 149-s-010512, 29-n-0105012, and 65-s-010512.

A cast iron bath being used as a water container for livestock was stolen from a field in Hoarwithy sometime last week. The bath was smashed up in situ in order for the offenders to move it. An attempt was also made to enter some farm buildings nearby, but entry wasn't gained. Incident ref 484-s-030512  
At 4am yesterday morning (Friday 4th May) an

attempt was made to steal items from a barn at a residential property in Wormelow. The occupier was alerted by an alarm to his mobile phone, when he got outside he heard the would-be thieves running away. The security system inside the barn had been disabled, and a load of items from inside were piled up outside ready for collection. Enquiries are ongoing, there may be CCTV images of a vehicle used. Incident ref 34-n-040512

There was another call to the same property at 10pm last night as the alarm was triggered again and signs of a possible entry to the same building were discovered, but no suspects were found unfortunately. Incident ref 237-n-040512

### **Suspicious vehicles**

At about 6pm on Sunday 29th April, two males were seen calling door to door in Madley, they were in a silver/grey Peugeot estate KN05FE\*. The driver was described as an overweight white male about 5'10" wearing a baseball cap, the passenger was described as also white, a bit shorter at 5'8" wearing a tracksuit top, no other description. Did they call at your door? Incident ref 705-s-290412

A white Ford Transit van AV09NW\* was seen snooping around near a garage premises in Orcop Hill last Thursday 3rd May around 1.30pm.

A young male from the vehicle asked if there was any scrap going, but was sent on his way. The van then proceeded further up the track towards some stables, but when it was approached it made off at speed. There was also a female in the vehicle. Incident ref 81-n-030512

### **SmartWater**

Finally, apologies for the delay in the delivery of SmartWater kits to those that have ordered, I'm expecting a delivery of kits shortly, but I am on leave until 21st May, by which time they will have arrived and I will get them out to you.

Thanks for taking the time to read through all this!

Fiona p.p.

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local  
Policing Teams

PS 3082 Nicky Cleeton

[nicola.cleeton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicola.cleeton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

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 -

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

Non emergency number 101 or 0300 333 3000

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They are also running a primary school poster competition along with enforcement days at local picnic and green areas.

Craig Sandman, team leader for Herefordshire Council's community protection team says: "We're often told that litter is an issue for communities across the county, which is why we've launched the 'Stop The Drop!' campaign. We appreciate that the majority of people responsibly dispose of their litter, but we'd like to remind everybody that if it's your litter, please take it home with you and either recycle or place into an appropriate rubbish bin."

### Little Birch Parish Council Clerk

After about 10 years of reliable and diligent service Liz Callwood will leave her post as parish clerk at the end of June. As well as work for the Parish Council she has been very helpful to the Village hall Committee and will continue as a valued member of the Community Led Plan Steering group. To express personal thanks Liz and her husband Chris will be entertained to dinner at the Castle Inn. A new clerk has been appointed and will be present at the next meeting in July.

### Duchy Walk

Geraint Richards and Graham Taylor have, once again, kindly agreed to lead us on a walk in Aconbury and adjacent Wallbrook woods. The walk will be on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May meeting at the village hall at 5.30pm.**

The route has yet to be confirmed but may involve arranging parking in suitable places to reduce walking distance. When we return to the hall there will be refreshments waiting for us, for which there will be a small charge. Come along and find out the Duchy's current management plans for the woodland.

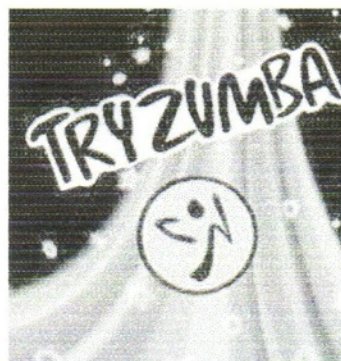
### Book Exchange

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on **Saturday 9 June 10-12. at Little Birch Village Hall.** (Delayed for one week this month because of Diamond Jubilee celebrations) 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.

### Stop The Drop! Litter Campaign

Herefordshire Council's community protection team and Amey are urging residents to 'Stop The Drop!' as part of their latest litter campaign. The three month campaign which began in April will focus on litter thrown from vehicles, left in lay-bys or green areas.

In the last three months, Amey has collected more than 400 bags of litter from the county's roads, weighing the equivalent of two family cars. Litter thrown from vehicles is not only unsightly but also costs around £30,000 a year to remove.



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