



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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

Diary Dates

June

27th. Gardening Club Visit

July

3rd. L BVH Annual General Meeting

4th. LB Parish Council L BVH

5th. MB Parish Council MBCH

7th. Book Exchange L BVH

14th. LB Church Fete Old Rectory

17th. New Drama Group L BVH

25th. Gardening Club Visit

July

27th. Village Market MBCH

August

31st. Childrens Workshop L BVH

September

1st. Annual Show L BVH

8th. Male Voice Choir MB Church

December

31st. New Years Eve Party L BVH

September Newsletter

As usual there will be no Newsletter in August.
Please send copy for September to
birchesnews@gmail.com or written contributions
to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow Aconbury
Close by 18th. August

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

Draws took place on 13th May & 12th June 2012 in Much Birch Community Hall at 7pm. The winners were:

- May 1. No 89 - Mrs.I.Hemmings – Much Birch
2. No 67 - Mr & Mrs.R Porter - Much Birch
- June 1. No 59 - Mr. I.K.J. Jones, Barcelona, Spain
2. No 38 - Mrs.G. Askew, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on Sunday, 8th July 2012 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall

John Jones – Chairman

NEW DRAMA GROUP

Calling all interested parties in the Birches and surrounding villages!

A meeting will be held on
Tuesday 17th July at 7.30 pm

Little Birch Village Hall

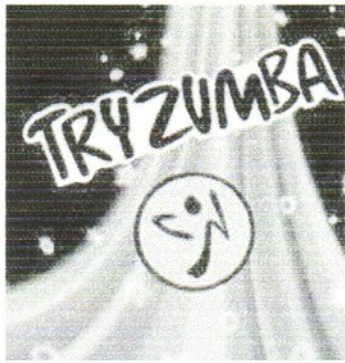
to establish a new drama group, to include pantomimes and other dramatic performances. Young and old, experienced or not, you are all welcome.

Robert Gould

Little Birch Village Hall AGM

An invitation is extended to members of the community who wish to attend the **Annual General Meeting** of the L BVH Management Committee to be held on **Tuesday 3 July** at 7.30p.m.

(The twelve people who expressed an interest in helping to run the village hall in the Community Led Plan questionnaire last year will be especially welcome)



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Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The activities over the weekend of June 1st-4th to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee were extremely well supported and resulted in an unusual number of contributions to this Newsletter. It was therefore decided to report the events in some detail and print the contributions in full. As well as immediate interest to local residents they might be of interest to future historians who choose to investigate this most unusual event. To this end the celebrations will be completed at a social gathering on September 15th. to commemorate the burying of a time capsule containing photographs and a video recording depicting the weekend as well as other artefacts.

The idea of having a special celebration for the Diamond Jubilee was first mooted over a year ago by the Little Birch Hall Committee but put aside in order to deal with more pressing issues. After the new Year party and the pantomime the idea was resurrected at a Parish Council meeting and it was decided that Alison Clarke, being a member of both the hall committee and Parish Council, should be asked to organise it. After a lot of cajoling she reluctantly agreed. But it was certainly the right decision-didn't she do well?

After a working committee of volunteers was formed everyone became enthusiastic (even Alison!). Ideas were soon agreed and acted on. Much Birch PC was approached and agreed to join in and what a marvellous co-operation it was. Have you ever seen such a magnificent bonfire as Glen Sims built, fired and guarded all night afterwards with Veronica for company?

It was unanimously decided to invite Mrs Maggie Mullins, a well-known character, long-standing resident and similar age to the Monarch, to be our Jubilee queen. Colin Quinsey took her on a tour of the village in his pony and trap that had been specially decorated by him and Jean for the occasion.

After the tour Maggie planted a commemorative Rowan tree, donated by Alan and Roison Burge, on the parish field previously cleared of undergrowth by Alan. She also "christened" a new seat purchased using money raised at the earlier social evening and Monarch Quiz. Glen Sims securely secured the seat to the ground.

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The celebration continued with a tea party in the village hall. It was a delight to see so many people there to enjoy the delicious buffet prepared by the committee and friends. Jane Bolam provided a copy of the Coronation film "A queen is Crowned" that was shown during the afternoon. Iris Lloyd won the prize for the best dressed lady and baby Preston Davies for his Kings outfit.

The evening disco with DJ Wolfie was well supported. Dancing to old popular tunes was enjoyed-and it was not too noisy. Heavy rain arrived by the end of the evening so it was fortunate that no outdoor events were scheduled for the next day and the Much Birch luncheon party was in the Community hall.

Monday 4th June started with a call from a considerate neighbour to say that the marquee containing the beer, erected the previous day on the Glebe field, had blown down. Fortunately the beer was unharmed and the men rallied round to put up several gazebos in it's place.

In the afternoon, after the ice-cream van, vintage vehicles and a working wood- turning lathe were in place picnickers enjoyed their lunch despite the chill breeze. This was followed by sports, a rounders match and tug-of-war (in which there appeared to be few rules but much enjoyment).

By popular demand the barbecue was started early as participants were hungry from their exertions. Iris and Selby Lloyd and Mandy Williams cooked without pause from 4.30-8.30 when the burgers and sausages ran out. The bar was also kept very busy. The Compost Heap sang (disgusted that the draught beer had all been consumed) and Jenny and Roger Williams entertained as well. By 10.26 p.m. by the light of a full moon and clear sky the beacon was lit

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What a couple of days!! Huge thanks to Kate and John Dillon for use of the Glebe without which the event would not have been possible. John also helped by mowing the field and removing the

rubbish afterwards. Thanks also to everyone for using the bins provided. Everything was packed away, with the help of friends, before the rain came down. Surely everyone will remember this celebration for years to come as well as the outstanding view from the venue. Thanks again to all who joined in.
Jackie Morley

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*"A special thank you to Little Birch. Having visited your Diamond Jubilee celebrations during the afternoon on Monday 4th June, and enjoyed my visit very much, I decided to return at 10.26p.m. to see the beacon lit. I achieved this and felt it was a truly wonderful experienced. Everyone was so friendly kind and welcoming, with the children running round and helping with the countdown and family dogs having a very happy time!! Then the moon rose and was just spectacular, its lovely soft light blessing everything and everyone.
A grateful thank you to the residents of Little Birch for all the very hard work and congratulations for the tremendous success and for entertaining someone from over the border at Wormelow."*

Rosemary E. Rigby

"As someone who contributed absolutely nothing to the planning, preparation and running of the Birches' Jubilee celebrations, but who enjoyed them immensely, I should like to thank all those who worked so hard to make this event such a resounding success!"
Name withheld as requested

"In the midst of the well-deserved praise and "jubilation" at the successful organisation and production of the recent extravaganza it may seem unfair to single-out anyone for a particular mention; but at the risk of being "inflammatory" special thanks to our own resident beacon-meister (Glen Sims) and his trusty band of fire-raisers for producing such a spectacular bonfire."

Sheila & John Penrice

"Congratulations to the Jubilee Committee and the many helpers who gave the community a very happy time and a chance to meet up with old friends. The Village Hall was festively decorated both inside and out, with the hanging baskets making a very welcoming feature. Well done! Jackie and Iris. The afternoon tea and evening disco proved very popular and the Monday picnic, games and beacon were well organised and some 250 gathered for the lighting of the beacon. Thanks to all who cleared up on Tuesday morning and especially to John Dillon and Kate, it is a fantastic venue for a community event!"

John Bryant

"Great thanks must be given to all those involved on the Jubilee Committee, Little Birch Village Hall Management Committee and others that helped organise and facilitate two fabulous days of celebrations over the Jubilee weekend in Little Birch. My family and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The hard work and dedication shown by certain residents of the Village never fades and must be applauded."

Liz Callwood

"Just a great big thank you for all your efforts over the weeks of preparation but particularly for the last 3 days.

It turned out really well from the pony and trap, the tree-planting and seat christening, the wonderful spread for the tea, the disco bar to Monday's efforts, the site preparation, the bar and barbecue, the children's and grown-ups' games, the singing and the bonfire.

You all know what you did so a huge pat on the back to all of you for making it such a successful weekend which seemed to be greatly enjoyed by a large number of people. What a beautiful evening for the beacon - I'm sure it was the best for miles around!!"

Alison Clarke

MURPHY'S PAW

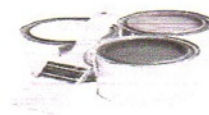


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Much Birch WI

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.

Our July meeting takes the form of a Garden Party at the home of one of our members.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

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

Duchy Walk on May 28th

Over 30 people set out from Little Birch Village Hall on a glorious evening, probably the last of that hard to remember summer weather. We were led by Geraint Richards, Head Forester of the Duchy of Cornwall and Graham Taylor of Pryor-Ricketts Silviculture, who look after the Duchy's Herefordshire estates. After walking up towards the camp, where we were given a summary of activity in the woods during the Duchy's ownership, we passed down the track where people may remember the new water main being laid recently. We viewed an area of clear felling and were told that very little more would now be done as they favoured selective removal of trees for timber. We then proceeded along a track taking us along the ridge and down into Wallbrook Wood, an extension of Aconbury where few had ventured. (There is in fact only one public footpath through this wood.) The Duchy prefer to keep this wood unvisited as it harbours a wide range of interesting wildlife. We finally emerged on the track just before the gate onto the Little Dewchurch road where cars were waiting to ferry us back to the hall. Here we enjoyed excellent refreshments thanks to Jackie and Robyn. It was a most enjoyable evening and most interesting thanks to Geraint and Graham's excellent commentary.

Much Birch Village Market

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

On **July 27th** 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, with filled pancakes, and Trefor, with quiches will, hopefully, be back in August. Dan, our knife/tool sharpener, will be back after his 'summer on the road', in September.

After many requests we now have a vegetable stall again.

There is a Fair Trade stand and a craft stand.

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

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Local News

Linda and Stephen Turner, of Hollybush Lane are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kate, to Matthew Powell and we wish them every happiness. Congratulations are extended to Sarah Nicholl of Little Birch Road, who will shortly take up an appointment with the BBC in London, working on i-player.

A very warm welcome is given to Dr. Nicola and John Jones together with son, Jack, who have recently moved into King's Thorn and we hope they will soon settle into their new home and be happy in this community. It is good to have a young family in the area to keep the demographic ratio well proportioned.

Joan Dillon moved to King's Acre a few weeks ago and we wish her every happiness in her new home and thank her for all the work she put into this community over the years.

As mentioned last month, Bill Horton of Much Birch, has died aged 74. Hereford Crematorium was full for his funeral service as Bill was very well known and respected not only by his large wider family but also the farming community in Herefordshire and the Welsh Counties. The tribute was given by Bill's goddaughter, Sue Cope, who has kindly contributed these notes. Bill was born in Bloxwich, Staffs, in 1938 but did not meet his father until aged 5, because his father was serving abroad in the Army in WW2. He was an only child but his mother came from a large family and so he had many cousins. Bill was a bright and keen student at Elmore Green High School and worked on a local farm for a few years. At the age of 18, he was called up for National Service and served most of his 2 years in Malta. He loved dogs and was brought up with family cocker spaniels for many years and it was therefore natural for him to become a dog-handler. Bill loved the army and thought about staying in as a 'Regular' but he was called back home as his father had suffered a severe brain haemorrhage. He stayed at home to help his mother, who ran a sweet shop/tobacconists. They lived on the premises, which included a barn, small field and granddad Horton's bookmaker's office.

One of Bill's first jobs after returning to England was to dig over the field by hand.

A few years later, he applied for a post with Alfa-Laval, the Swedish manufacturer of dairy equipment and spent the next 43 years fitting and maintaining their milking and other machinery. He later went on to work for Dairy Supplies based in Hereford. Bill met Angela in 1960 and they were married in 1965 in Breinton Church. They were married for 46 years and Bill was a very keen and knowledgeable



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gardener. They had no children but Sue lived with them for several years. Bill was a very good neighbour and enjoyed helping others in any way he could. He was very jovial and always had something to say.

Sadly, Angela became ill a few years ago and Bill looked after her so well without ever complaining. It became very difficult in the last year or so having to care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and it began to take its toll on Bill. He visited and fed her every day when she was in Ross hospital and she was then transferred to Brockhampton Nursing Home. He continued his daily visits up until the day before he died. They were a very close couple.

We send our deepest sympathy to Angela and the many cousins of Bill's extended family.

It is also sad to record the passing of Thelma May Murphy at the age of 70 years, after a long and painful illness. Thelma was the third child of Reg and Alice Davis, of Upper Folly, Little Birch, having Peggy (later Manning) and Colin as her sister and brother. She was baptised in June 1942 in Little Birch Church. All the family attended Little Birch School but Thelma finished her education in Hereford.

She married Michael Philip Murphy in 1962 and Stephen was born in 1963. Michael only saw Stephen for a very brief time before having to return overseas on active service. He served in Malaysia and Borneo and was tragically killed in Sarawak later in 1963. Thelma had a difficult time being

being left on her own with a young baby but, she was a battler and worked at several bookmakers shops in Hereford, whilst the family and neighbours helped to look after Stephen. She and Stephen visited the Memorial Ground in Sarawak in 1995 where Michael was buried

She has been a partner to Keith Williams of King's Caple for the past 28 years and he has given her the utmost care particularly over the last few years.

Thelma's funeral service took place at Little Birch church on Friday, 22nd June and her body was interred alongside the grave of her parents.

We send to son, Steve, and partner, Keith, and the wider family our deepest sympathy. Donations in memory of Thelma were given to the Renal Unit at Hereford Hospital and Little Birch Church.



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Amanda Hamilton

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The next meeting for the
“Book Exchange”

Will take place
on **Saturday 7 July**
10-12am 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.

St Mary's Church,
Little Birch Summer Fete
Sat 14th July
at the Old Rectory, Little Birch.

FUN for ALL the FAMILY

A walking Treasure Hunt will begin at 1pm to
arrive back at the Old Rectory for the
2pm Opening of the FETE.
Family £5 or £2 individually.

**Plant stall, Cake stall, Bottle stall,
Bowling,etc. Barbecue, Teas,
Raffle.Free games for children.**

Any offers of help will be greatly appreciated.
Contact Pauline Rogers 541201, John Caton 540267,
James Gould 540676, Steve Turner 540090 or John
Bryant 540316.

(Please please could everyone dig out books for the
Little Birch Fete book stall. Children's books
especially appreciated. Please call me on 01981
541353 and I would be happy to collect any
donations of books.)



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PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Meeting held on the 7th June, at the Much Birch Community Hall, Councillors were introduced to the new Parish Clerk, Mrs Alison Wright, who came into post on 1st June. The end of year accounts were adopted and the Annual Return was signed and made ready for return to the external Auditors.

Councillors heard that it is still the intention to move ahead with the self-help gritting scheme, in conjunction with Little Birch Parish Council. Further discussions as to how the scheme is to progress will be held shortly.

Some road issues have been resolved and some further ones, including the deterioration of some road surfacing, have been reported. The Parish Council will continue to work in close contact with Amey Wye Valley and the

Lengthsman to keep roads and paths etc. fit for purpose.

Full minutes of the meetings etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link found in this summary. The contact details for the new Parish Clerk are also now on the website, and at the head of this message. This is the website address where you can see information about the Parish Councillors and find out more about how they serve the community and represent your interests.

www.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 5th July, 7.30pm** at Much Birch Community Hall. Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

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Whist Drive

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 10 July** 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.

Little Birch and King's Thorn Gardening Club

The entertaining speaker at the May meeting was Kate Williams who recited her own poems and sang songs on gardening subjects. She ended with a poem specially penned for the occasion.

Hooray for the Kingsthorpe Gardening Club!

*Hooray for the Kingsthorpe Gardening Club!
What better place to meet,
to share new tips - and a few bites and sips?
It's the ideal retreat!*

*Yes, our club's the best for that well-deserved rest
from battling away, day after long day,
to keep those brambles and beasts at bay!
Our club's an absolute treat!*

*We have such good cheer, except for – oh dear! –
this tiresome visiting guest!
If only she wouldn't keep talking in rhyme,
she wouldn't take up so much of our time!*

*We're ready for food, but to leave would be rude,
so we just have to sit, starved and stressed.
But as soon as she's gone, our fun can go on,
so here's to the club - hooray!*

Kate Williams poemsforfun.wordpress.com

The future programme includes,

June 27th. Visit to **Shieldbrook, King's Cople**. Meet
Bus shelter 6.30pm. prompt.

July 25th. Visit to **Dewstone gardens, Caerwent**.
Meet Bus shelter 10 am.

Cost £5.50 pp. Look at the www.dewstow.co.uk

Aug 31st **Children's Workshop** in Little Birch
Village Hall 4.30pm Learn the art of making
vegetable Monsters and gardens on a plate.

Sat 1st Sep **Annual Open Show**. Entry forms and
Schedules are attached to the Newsletter.

Sept 26th. **MOLECATCHER SPECIAL**. With
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Further information from John Bryant 540316

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OAK HOUSE NURSERY SCHOOL 25th ANNIVERSARY

25 years ago, Sue Marshall set up Oak House Nursery School in her home. Thanks to a supportive and long-suffering family, and wonderfully committed staff, the Nursery has flourished with a pupil roll over one hundred. To celebrate our 25 year history, we're throwing a Garden Party at the the Flanesford Priory, Goodrich from 3pm on Sunday 15th July.

All past and present pupils, their families and 'friends of Oak House' are welcome to join us for fun and games - all in aid of The Gambia Appeal.

Entrance is free, and we'll have jugglers and falcons, tug 'o war, a greasy pole and much more to entertain the little ones, while we'll also have a donation bar offering Pimms, drinks, strawberry cream teas, a hog roast and much more for everyone to enjoy!

Please visit www.oakhousenurseryschool.co.uk for more information.

[The Gambia Appeal - supporting our medical, feeding and learning programme at Freetown Pre-School in the Gunjar region of the Gambia]

Police Briefing

Crime Trends South Herefordshire & Golden Valley

Overnight on Thursday 24th/Friday 25th May, a large steel barn in Wormelow was broken into and several items were stolen, including an 'Ifor Williams' single axle trailer with mesh sides and drop down end, bearing the registration number T56JKJ. Also stolen was a brand new 'Mountford' ride-on mower, only purchased the previous day, a yellow 'Stiga' ride on mower, and two petrol trimmers; a 'Ryobi' and a 'Kawasaki'. Possibly linked to the incident was a report of two males in a low-loader seen nearby at 8.30pm, they were seen looking at the rear of a garage premises, but when challenged, they drove off. Unfortunately no registration number was taken.
Incident number 81-n-250512

A white Nissan pick-up was stolen from a farm near Much Dewchurch overnight on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th May, but found abandoned in Hereford later on the Saturday morning.

Incident ref 328-s-270512

Between 10.30am on Saturday 2nd June and 10.30 on Tuesday 5th June, a set of vehicle recovery ramps were stolen from an insecure vehicle on the rear of a recovery truck in Kingstone. Incident ref 165-s-050612

A set of metal wheels from a Cambridge roller were stolen from a premises in Orcop Hill sometime in the week leading up to 6th June.

Incident ref 56-n-060612

Sometime in the week leading up to 7th June, approximately 250 litres of heating oil were stolen from a domestic heating oil tank in Tump Lane, Much Birch. Incident ref 99-s-070612

Damage has been caused to children's play equipment at a nursery in Kingstone sometime over last weekend (8-10th June). Several outside toys and two planters with herbs growing were sprayed with orange and white paint. A new shed has also been covered in paint.

Incident ref 35-n-110612.

A Stihl leaf blower was stolen from a garage in Llanwarne between 11.00am and 12 noon on Monday 11th June. Builders were on site at the time and the gates to the property were open, as was the garage. Incident ref 463-s-110612

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

Suspicious Vehicles

On Tuesday 12th June at around 10.15am a white Ford transit van HN11WV* was driving slowly along Hollybush Lane, Much Birch. The two young male occupants were having a good look around. The vehicle is believed to be being used by someone well known to us, so please report any other sightings. A blue Ford transit van W562PHP was seen in Little Birch last Friday, 25th May, at around 10.30am, the three male occupants were asking for scrap.

A white Ford transit van N198HKH called at premises asking for scrap on an industrial estate in Kingstone last Tuesday 29th May at 1.40pm. There were two males in the vehicle, the passenger was describes as in his early 20's.

I have had two reports of a dark green Landrover discovery with two male occupants in their early 20's driving off road through crops and fields of livestock, with total disregard for the landowners property. They were seen in the areas of Much Dewchurch on Friday evening

If you have had a similar experience, please report it on 101, quoting incident ref 307-s-030612.

I have had this information second hand however, with no-one actually reporting a crime, so if someone has suffered criminal damage (driving through crops would surely damage them?) please report it so if we catch up with these individuals they can be dealt with accordingly.

A witness did manage to get a very good photo on her mobile phone of the passenger.

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams

PS 3082 Nicky Cleeton

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

Non emergency number 101

Much Birch Church Preliminary Notice

There will be a concert performed by the Forest of Dean Male Voice Choir and a soloist on Saturday 8th September 2012 in Much Birch Church at 7.pm in aid of funds for the Church. More details next month.

PILATES

**NEW BEGINNER CLASSES STARTING
SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Mondays 9.30am & 10.30am
Much Birch Community Hall**

**Wednesdays 7pm & 8pm
Little Dewchurch Hall
£7 per class**

PRE- BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS CLASS
NUMBERS ARE LIMITED TO ALLOW FOR
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

**Phone Alison Allan
01432 840491**



Brownies

1st Much Birch Brownies have had an enjoyable term decorating the Hall way in Little Birch Village Hall for the Jubilee weekend as well as focusing on the gardening badge.

We will be having a very exciting term ahead- going to Warwick Castle, working towards the Sports badge due to the 2012 Olympics but most exciting of all we will be lining the streets of Hereford for the Queen's visit on July 11th.

If any girls between the age of 7-11 years would like to join Brownies please contact Katie on 01981 540264

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**T: 01432 840491
M: 07761646635**

Steven Allan

Oftec Reg No: C12495

Gas Safe Reg No: 188939

