



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

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury May 2013. First published 1977

## Diary Dates

### April

- 24th Gardening Club LBVH
- 27th Parish Field preparation Barrack Hill

### May

- 2nd Much Birch Parish Council MBCH
- 2nd. History talk LBVH
- 4th Parish Field seeding Barrack Hill
- 14th Evergreen Club Trip
- 14th Fashion Show & Sale MBCH
- 14th Whist Ddive LBVH
- 16th Flicks in the Sticks 7.30 MBCH
- 18th. Pub Night LBVH

### May

- 18th Plant Sale MB Church
- 18th Flicks in the Sticks 2.30 MBCH
- 20th Book Exchange LBVH
- 21st Womens Institute MBCH
- 23rd Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
- 24th Village Market MBCH
- 29th Gardening Club LBVH

### June

- 2nd The Big Lunch MBCH
- 2nd Much Birch Parish Council MBCH



## Pub Night

The Castle Inn still remains closed and it has been a long cold Winter with many of us missing our friends and neighbours.

We are holding a pub night at Little Birch Village Hall on Saturday 18th May 2013, 7.30 till 12.00  
Entry is free

Organised by Friends of the Castle

Little Birch Village Hall Committee would like to collect copies of as many photographs as possible taken at the presentation to John Bryant on March 2nd. If you can help please email copies to [birchesnews@gmail.com](mailto:birchesnews@gmail.com) or call 01981 541027



**SMARTY'S**  
Ex-Chainstore Clothing

## Children's and Ladies Top Ex-Chainstores Fund Raising Fashion Show & Half Price Clothes Sale

We are holding an exciting fund raising fashion show & clothes sale  
Offering a rare opportunity to purchase Ladies & Children's Ex-chainstore brands

### Raising funds for Much Birch Church

At: MUCH BIRCH COMMUNITY HALL

On: Tuesday 14th May

Starts: Refreshments at 7.00pm, 7.30pm start

Admission: £5.00

Tickets from Sylvia on 01981 540980  
or Shirley on 07787532720

### June Newsletter

Please send copy for the June Newsletter to [birchesnews@gmail.com](mailto:birchesnews@gmail.com) or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close by 18th. May

## Local News

Congratulations are extended to one electrician, Dave Jones of Hollybush Lane, on reaching the milestone of 100 blood donations. "That's more than 2 armfuls" as Tony Hancock would say. Well done! Dave, keep up the good work.

'Bon Voyage' goes to Vicky Smith of Little Birch who sets off for a 6 month trip to Italy, looking after children at a high class holiday resort.

A warm welcome is extended to Mrs. Diane

Sayce, who has come to live in King's Thorn from Monkton, Llanwarne. Diane's family have a long association with this area and we trust she will soon settle in to her new home and be happy in this community.

It is sad to learn of the death of Mrs. Tottenham of 'Old Bryngwyn, who received Meals on Wheels for many years and was well thought of by the delivery teams. She was well looked after by Doreen Joseph and Eric. We send our sympathy to the family.

The receipt of generous donations to the Newsletter are gratefully acknowledged.

The Lent Lunch in aid of Sightsavers International at Little Birch Hall was again happy gathering and £205 was donated for the charity. Thanks and best wishes go to everyone for their support and to those who provided the delicious soups, cheese and rolls.

### Chapels to visit in Hereford ( John Kinross)

Some residents may not have heard of Longworth Chapel which is slowly being restored for use by St. Michael's Hospice and the people of the adjacent Frome Court. It is open to the public on June 22nd. Originally Roman Catholic, it will be used for ecumenical services, when fully restored.

Other chapels where occasional services are held include upstairs in the Coningsby Hospital Chapel, Widemarsh Street taken by the Dean and at Eastnor, unfortunately too small for weddings and at Hampton Court, where the chapel has an unusual 'ambo', ( a type of pulpit) and a fine roof.. Small weddings are held here but larger ones are held in the Castle or in a marquee outside.

For more information, see 'Houses with private chapels in the heart of England' recently published by Fineleaf Editions of Ross on Wye and available in the Cathedral Bookshop.

## Little Birch and King's Thorn Gardening Club

Mr. Matt Lamsley will give a practical talk on 'The Ins and Outs of Plug Plants' on Wed. May 29th, at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall.

There will be a 'Bring and Buy' plant stall in aid of Club funds. Everyone welcome.

John Bryant 540316.

## Much Birch Parish Council

Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright, Longfield House  
Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire  
HR2 9NE Tel. 01981 250860  
Email: muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Meeting held on the 4th April 2013, at the Much Birch Community Hall. There was a discussion over the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy Draft consultation which invites all residents to feedback their views and suggestions on the plan for Herefordshire for the next 20 years. Information, questionnaires and supporting documents can be found on the Herefordshire Council website. Road issues, footpaths and local concerns were discussed and addressed. The success of the "self help" gritting scheme was highlighted with the hope that it could be continued, and possibly extended, in the future to help the villages stay "mobile" during spells of bad weather.

Again to remind everyone that we are still looking for willing volunteers to join the Parish Council. Come along to a meeting, and find out how you can join in, or contact the Clerk, or any of the other councillors, for details of how you can make a difference to the community by being part of the Parish Council.

The Annual Statutory Meeting of the parish, to be held at 7.00pm on Thursday May 2nd at the Much Birch Community Hall, is an opportunity for all parishioners to come along and talk to the Parish Council about the issues that matter to them.

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

**Cllr Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage,  
Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2  
8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981  
540703

**Cllr Steve Turner** (Vice Chair) The Underhills,  
Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX,  
e mail [turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com](mailto:turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com) and  
tel. 01981 540090

**Cllr Andrew Crum** Anfield House, Barrack Hill,  
Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail  
[a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com)  
Tel. 01981 540002

**Cllr Terry Cook** Jasmine Cottage,  
Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2  
8AW, e mail [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wyenet.co.uk) Tel. 01981  
540703

**Cllr Jon Norris** Whitewells, Laskett Lane,  
Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HZ, e mail  
[jon@jonnorris.co.uk](mailto:jon@jonnorris.co.uk) Tel. 07944 301250

Full minutes of the meetings and information etc.  
can be found on the Parish Council website  
[www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on  
Thursday 2nd May and will start with the Annual  
Statutory Meeting at 7.00pm which will then be  
immediately followed by the Parish Council  
Meeting at 7.30pm - both at The 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.

### **PLANT SALE FOR MUCH BIRCH CHURCH ON 18TH MAY**

We would be grateful for any donations of plants  
for the above sale. Please ring Sylvia on 01981  
540980 or Janet on 01981 540501 to arrange for  
delivery or collection.

### **Much Birch WI**

Much Birch WI hold meetings on the third Tuesday  
of the month, at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community  
Hall.

May 21st is the Resolutions meeting, when we  
discuss items put forward to the National  
Federation for consideration at the Annual  
Meeting. There will be a Plant Stall at this  
meeting. Visitors and potential new members are  
always welcome.

For more information regarding Much Birch WI  
please contact Gillian, 01981 540080

### **Much Birch Village Market**

MBVM takes place on the 4th Friday of the month  
(except December), in Much Birch Community  
Hall, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm

The May market takes place on the 24th.

The Squeaky Pig, award winning suppliers of  
locally reared rare breed pork, sausage, including  
Gluten free (to order) and bacon. Moor Meals,  
award winning, local suppliers of Dexter beef,  
ready meals and pies. Llandinabo Farm shop,  
Castle Cheese, Mr.G's chutney and preserves and  
vegetables. Mark is hoping there will be a fish van  
in the car park. There is a Fair Trade stand and a  
craft stand, selling cards, aprons, shopping bags,  
children's T-shirts and sleep suits. Dan will be  
there to sharpen knives and garden tools.

Refreshments and 'take home cakes', the  
proceeds of which go to MacMillan Cancer  
Support, are supplied by Chris and Peter.

As far as I know at this time, all the usual  
suppliers will be with us.

Please support our producers who bring local food  
almost 'to our door'.

If you would like to have a stall, or to find out more  
about the market, please contact Mark on 01432  
278026

### **The Evergreen Club**

On Tuesday 14 May we are going to Cheltenham  
for the morning. In the afternoon we go to  
Cotswold Farm Garden. (This terraced garden  
should not be confused with Adam Henson's  
Cotswold Farm). We shall enjoy tea and cake  
here.

The cost is £15 (£17 for visitors) to include garden  
entrance and teas. For enquiries or to book,  
please ring Bridget on 01981 540932.

The pick-up times are:

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

## **Little Birch Parish Field**

The cold weather has obviously put everything back this year but we now have 2 dates, one for final preparation and one for seeding. So... please would anyone who would like to help, bring your rakes along on Saturday April 27th from 11.00 to prepare the ground for seeding. The following Saturday, May 4th we will be seeding so, again, anyone who would like to help please come along from 11.00. A notice will go up on Parish Field. (If the weather is too bad a 'cancelled' sign will be placed across it.) See you then!!

## **History Talk**

A History Talk has been arranged for Thursday May 2nd in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30. **John Bothamley** (who is Chairman of the Civic Trust) is to come and talk about architecture in Herefordshire in a talk entitled '**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**'. This will cover architectural styles ancient and modern and consider whether our modern architecture is the heritage of the future. It promises to be a very interesting talk – please come along. Entry will be £3.00 for the village hall funds and will include light refreshments.

## **Community Book Exchange/Lending Library**

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on Saturday 18 May at Little Birch Village Hall. A large selection of books to suit all ages and interests are available and for 2013 we have some new books and a small and growing collection of DVDs.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable social event. There is a charge of £1 per adult towards the cost of hall hire, and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.

Note. Thank you to all who have kindly donated books for our Exchange. We regret that at the moment we are unable to accept further book donations as we have run out of storage space. We will keep you updated!

## **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 14 May in

Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30.p.m. The entrance fee is £2.00. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

## **Little Birch Village Hall AGM**

Tuesday 4 June 7.30

The LBVH committee wish to invite all members of the community to attend the LBVH Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 4 June. The evening will enable you to hear reports about LBVH activities over the past year and the committee would welcome suggestions for additions to the programme for 2013/14. Refreshments will be served.

## **Police Briefing Friday 5th April 2013 South Herefordshire & Golden Valley**

### ***Crime Trends***

#### **Bredwardine**

Overnight on the 28th to 29th of March someone forced the doors off a shed and stole a lawn mower from within. There was evidence that the offender had also had a look in other sheds at the same location. Incident number 211s290313.

On the same night a property located less than 100 metres from the one mentioned above had items taken. A set of gates was removed and an Ifor Williams trailer was taken from behind a building (not visible from the road.) The offender's also entered an unlocked outbuilding and took a cement mixer and a lawn mower from within it. Incident number 204s290313.

#### **Clifford**

Between Monday 18th March and Wednesday 27th March an outbuilding was entered in this location and an Ifor Williams trailer taken from within. Incident number 73n270313.

#### **Dorstone**

A theft took place between 10:00 on Friday 29 March and 18:45 on Monday 01 April in Dorstone. A resident reported this after coming back from being away for a few days, and noticed a garage door wasn't closed properly. The double garage with up and over doors had a small mark in the wood at the top of the door, consistent with chisel or



screwdriver believed used to force the door open. A hedge cutter/bush cutter, 2 chain saws and a magnetic drill were taken from within. Incident number 478s010413.

### **Dulas**

Between 19th and the 21st march someone has entered a secure concrete built stable building in a field not visible from the road. They have forced padlock with unknown instrument causing the door to be pulled out of frame. It would appear it was jemmed open and the property from within stolen. Access to the building would have been through a field gate and then an orchard no visible signs of any tyre marks. The items that were removed from within included a lawn mower, a strimmer and a leaf blower. Incident number 326s210313.

### **Eaton Bishop**

Between the 20th and the 31st March approximately 400 Litres of domestic heating oil was stolen from a property in Eaton Bishop. The offender/s removed the filter from the bottom of the oil tank and drained the remaining oil from tank. Incident number 216s010413.

### **Ewyas Harold**

Monday 1st April at 21:45 a resident in Ewyas Harold came home to find an old 4 wheel drive vehicle coming down their drive. They then saw two people attempting to steal a trailer which had been pushed to the end of the drive. Incident number 256N010413.

### **Kingstone**

Overnight on Monday 1st April and Tuesday 2nd April a barn situated along a main road was entered. The barn is in a secure yard at the roadside with a thick hedgerow and 6ft security fencing. To the rear of the yard are fields containing livestock. Someone has entered the yard via the fields and have opened an insecure barn door, entered the barn and approached a 135 tractor and they have removed a starter motor and battery from the tractor. None of the other vehicles at this location were touched. Incident number 159s020413.

On the same evening someone has approached a unit via a track along the hedgerow. They gained access to a yard in Kingstone via a gap in the hedgerow. They then went to an industrial transformer, located behind the unit, and not

visible from the roadside. They took three copper rods, which are approximately 18" long, and 1.5" thick. This transformer was previously targeted by thieves 18 months ago, and the majority of the copper was stripped from it on that occasion. It was not in working order, thus left outside. In addition, the suspects have also approached an insecure storage container at the rear of the yard. They have opened the door and reached in and taken a scrap motor from just inside the door. They have then placed the motor beside the outside of the container and covered it with wooden pallets and it is believed they have placed it there in order to come back and collect it at a later time. Incident number 100s020413.

### **Longtown**

A property in the Longtown area has had both a garage and a shed broken into but nothing appears to have been taken. This happened between 18th and the 24th March. The garage doors were prised open but nothing stolen from within. The shed lies a little further away from the house in the garden. The padlock has been forced off and entry gained but again nothing stolen from inside. Incident number 444s240313.

Between the 19th and the 21st March an insecure shed was broken into in Longtown. A lawn mower was stolen from within the shed. Incident number 656s210313.

### **Madley**

Over the weekend of the 22nd March a vehicle was damaged in Madley. The wing mirror had been kicked and the casing damaged in the process. Incident number 420s240313.

Since the last briefing it has been reported that a white transit van has been spotted in the Madley area driving around slowly with no lights on. It has also been seen with occupants inside, parked up in the Madley area. Keep your eyes peeled folks we need a registration number to carry out some checks on the vehicle and keeper.

### **Peterchurch**

Between 9:00 on Friday 29 March and 18:00 on Tuesday 02 April items were stolen from an unlocked garden shed in the Peterchurch area. Incident number 462s020413.

Overnight on Tuesday 26th March a wooden garden shed was broken into on the outskirts of Peterchurch. A strimmer and a lawn mower were

taken from within. Incident number 123s270313.

#### Preston-on-Wye

A pedal cycle was stolen from within an insecure outbuilding in the Preston-on-Wye area. This happened anytime between the 17th and the 22nd March. Incident number 40n220313.

#### St Owens Cross

600 gallons of domestic heating oil was stolen from a tank near a commercial property. The tank was not locked and it appears that the heating oil was siphoned out from the screwed in cap. This occurred overnight on the 21st 22nd March. Incident number 97s250313

#### Vowchurch

Between 09:30 and 12:00 on the 25th March 2013 a detached house with a lean to was broken into. Person/s have walked around the property right the way around the back of the house where there is a lean to woodshed up against the right hand gable end. Using a 20ml wide flat tool possibly a crowbar. They have jammed open a dead locked solid wooden door forcing entry into the lean-to. They have removed a Strimmer, hedge trimmer and two vacuum leaf blowers. Escape has been via the same entrance root. Due to location suspects would have needed a vehicle of some sort. The offenders have only removed property from the lean-to which was being used as a log store and tool shed they have not tried to gain access to the house. Incident number 477s250313.

#### Rural watch

I mentioned last week about the possibility of starting up a rural watch scheme in our area. I have had a lot of responses from people across the area who are interested in joining a scheme. I do appreciate many of the people we will be asking to join are farmers who are very busy at present. I have been doing some background work along with officers from Kington to find out what works best, taking a look at how other schemes work and what has proven to be effective. I am also looking into funding for the outdoor signs and some leaflets.

I am now seeking individuals who are willing to take ownership of a particular area for the rural watch scheme. I will invite those individuals to meet with me to discuss the scheme and what you

want from it.

Please e-mail me if you are interested.

Thanks for taking the time to read our briefings and please don't hesitate to call if you feel you have any information that could assist us.

Golden Valley & Hereford Rural South Local Policing Teams

PC 2176 Wendy Powell 07811 131525

PCSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07779 141232

PCSO 6482 Katie Middleton 07779 141223

E-mail -

goldenvalley.lpt@westmercias.pnn.police.uk

#### Non emergency number 101

Some schoolboy howlers submitted by a reader.

1. Magna Carta decreed that no man could be hanged twice for the same offence.
2. Monotony: Married to the same person for the whole of your life.
3. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.
4. Parasites: The citizens of Paris.

#### And finally has Spring arrived at last?

The first cuckoo is normally heard in this area around April 21st. A resident heard one around 8pm. on the 22nd. Could it be the harbinger of some warm weather?