



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

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

## Diary Dates

### September

25th Gardening Club  
26th History Talk  
26th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH  
27th Village Market MBCH  
27th Pantomime auditions  
28th LB Parish Plan intro.  
LBVH  
29th History Walk  
29th Clean up day MB Church

### October

3rd Much Birch Parish Council  
4th WI Quiz  
8th Whist Drive LBVH  
8th Evergreen Club Trip  
5th Flu Clinic Much MB Surgery  
11th Charity Concert Cathedral  
12th Book Exchange LBVH  
13th Harvest festival MB  
Church  
19th Flu Clinic Much MB  
Surgery  
20th Harvest Thanksgiving  
LB Church  
23rd Flicks in the Sticks MBCH  
30th Gardening Club

### November

1st Priest & Publican Evening  
MBCH  
17th Community Lunch MBCH

### November Newsletter

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

A Concert is to take place on  
**Saturday, 2nd. November**  
(in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association)

Featuring

**THE VILLAGE QUIRE,**  
Compost Heap, and Friends



The evening will begin at **7.30p.m.** And will take place in the  
**Village Hall of Little Birch.** Those attending will be pleased to note that  
a **Licensed Bar** will be available for their refreshment, and that  
a **Hot Supper** will be provided during the Interval.  
**Tickets** will be charged at £10, with a concession to £7 for those who  
have not yet reached the age of fourteen.

These may be acquired by  
telephoning **Mr. Robert Gould** on **01981 540322**



## Little Birch

### Community Led Plan Steering Group

invites you to the launch of the  
Little Birch Community Led Plan  
at

### Little Birch Village Hall

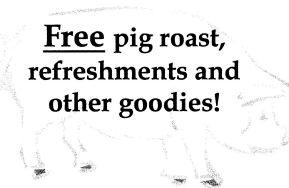
**Saturday 28th September**  
**1pm – 4pm**

Come and see what is in the Action Plan for Little Birch  
from the many consultations with Little Birch residents.



**Free prize**  
raffle to all  
attendees!

**Free pig roast,**  
refreshments and  
other goodies!



**Little Birch residents will be able to collect  
their copies of the plan. Copies will be  
delivered to the homes of those who are not  
able to attend.**

*Maps and photos used in the Plan document,  
along with others, will be on show!*

## And Finally

Two elderly couples were enjoying a friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?"

"Outstanding", Fred replied. They taught us all the latest psychological techniques, visualisation, association etc. It was great"

"Good. What was the name of the clinic?"

Fred went blank. He thought and thought but could not remember Then a smile broke across his face and he asked "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?"

"You mean Rose?"

"Yes, that's it." He turned to his wife. "Rose what was the name of that memory clinic?" **Local News.**

A warm welcome to Chris and Nicola Legge and their children, Lauren aged 11 and Jack aged 6, who moved into Highfields, Much Birch about 3 months ago.

Nicola was brought up at Harewood End where her parents still live and she has relations in Much Birch. The Legges have moved here from Hereford to get back to rural life. Chris lays gas pipe lines and Nicola works at St. Michael's Hospice.

As briefly reported last month, it was very sad to announce the death of JOHN BALLANTYNE of Wrigglebrook Lane. John was the fourth of eight children in the family who lived in Glasgow. They had a happy childhood and John's nickname, not surprisingly, was 'smiler'; he always had a wide smile, which was noted by everyone meeting him for the first time.

His father worked in the shipyards at Govan and John and his brothers joined him there. In the 1950's the ship building industry started to 'run down' and four of his siblings emigrated to Canada but John decided to join the Royal Air Force, serving for 12 years. He ended up in the Military Police and his final posting was to Credenhill.

He returned to Scotland briefly but soon returned to Hereford and met up with Val at the Kerry Arms. Their romance blossomed and they were soon married, and in due time their daughter, Jacki, was born.

John loved driving and was very proud to obtain his HGV licence. He worked for several local haulage companies and drove everything from low loaders to huge trucks and delivery vans. He finally joined a company called Unistat, delivering

stationery. He loved meeting people in the course of his work and when Unistat was taken over by another firm based in Bromsgrove, he commuted there daily to run the warehouse. He worked on well past his 70th. birthday and the company showed its appreciation by giving John and Val a wonderful weekend away at a Spa.

John loved his home and his family and although reluctant to take holidays, he and Val travelled to Canada, the USA, India, Thailand and Australia.

John loved building things and his DIY skills are very evident at home, in the garden and at Jacki's home.

John was diagnosed with 'Multiple Myeloma' some 4 years ago and was wonderfully cared for at home by Val. In the end, he was to enjoy the last three and a half years in remission. He went to the Hereford Leisure Pool 3 times a week, spending time in the gym and meeting old and new friends. In May of this year, he was diagnosed with lung cancer and 'the gang' from the Leisure Centre came to visit frequently to chat and reminisce. John loved the poetry of Robbie Burns and he and Val used to recite the Ancient Mariner. He was a generous person, rather mischievous with a dry sense of humour and loved a good giggle. He had a marvellous memory and could recognise number plates on lorries and vans as those belonging to former colleagues and companies. John and Val were holidaying on Ibiza and on a cliff top walk, were hailed from a passing yacht by the skipper who recognised John!

He died peacefully at home on 17th. August at the age of 77 years with his family and beloved cats at his bedside.

John believed that we only have one life and that no life is ever completely lost. He believed that we live on through the influence we have had on the lives of those who remain and that 'we reap what we sow' in life. A ceremony of Celebration for John's Life took place at Hereford Crematorium and at John's request was a Humanist ceremony. Grandson Nick from York joined the family at this ceremony and also represented the other grandson, Jack, who is in Mexico.

Son in law, Darryl, paid a fine tribute to John and said that Val was a brilliant and sustaining presence-morning, noon and night and that Jacki was a very best daughter and kept up everyone's spirits. With all this love, the house never needed to become like a hospital and everything was kept as normal as possible for John. There were many

others who supported the family and John had great respect for Dr. Michael Davies, Dr Robinson, the Myeloma Specialist, District Nurse 'Sharon', the MacMillan Nurses, the 'gang', Geoff, Paul and Roly who visited and kept up his spirit, and for the neighbours, particularly Doreen Dodd, who was particularly kind and thoughtful. We send our own tribute and condolences to Val and the family for their outstanding care and devotion to John.

Donations in memory of John were invited in aid of the Charles Renton Unit at the County Hospital.

Peggy Lyke moved from Hollybush Lane to Hope BrookCourt, Longhope Manor Care Home, Church Road, Longhope. GL17 0LL.at the end of August. She would very much welcome visitors or a 'chat' on 01452 832128. Meanwhile we welcome back to the area Mr. and Mrs. Brian Yates who are moving into 'Birchfield'.

We also say a sort of farewell to Mary and Gerald Prior who have moved into a refurbished barn at Newcroft Farm, Much Birch and we trust they will be happy in their new home.

Meanwhile, Sandra and Adrian Cameron have moved into the 'Prior' bungalow which, with the paddock will give more room for all their animals. We trust that all the family will settle and be happy in their new home.

On a happy note, we send our best wishes to Katy Turner and Matt Powell who are to be married at Little Birch Church on October 5th.

## **Police Briefing Wednesday 18th Sept. 2013 South Herefordshire & Golden Valley**

### **Crime Trends**

#### **Much Birch**

A quantity of horse rugs and other equipment were stolen from a container kept in a field with horses in Laskett Lane between 11.30am on Wednesday 11th/11.30am Thursday 12th September. The lock on the container had been forced.

Incident ref 239-s-120913

#### **Wormbridge**

Between 2.50am and 3.20am on Friday 13th September, two males attempted to gain entry to a business premises just off the A465. The barrier gate to the yard where several businesses are based was open, and the roller shutter doors to the premises had been forced off. There was

another roller shutter door leading to a workshop had a hole cut in it, and it was when the males attempted to climb through this hole that the alarm was activated and they made off before the owner of the premises arrived.

Incident ref 54-s-130913

Connected to the above incident, a security light on a neighbouring premises was damaged on the same evening.

Incident ref 111-s-130913

### **Suspicious incidents**

#### **Moccas**

A van was seen acting suspiciously near the deer park at about 10.30pm on Friday 13th September, the occupants were shining a spotlight across the park. When a vehicle slowed down to see what was going on, the spotlight was turned and directed at this vehicle so the driver was unable to see. The registration number was similar to LB0\*LUD.

Incident ref 756-s-130913

### **Scams**

A reader has reported the following incident -

I was called tonight by a woman claiming to be raising money for Red Cross. She asked for £100 on a credit or debit card; when I refused she asked for £50! Checked on 1471 but 'caller did not leave number'.

### **Scam e-mail received by one of our residents of late**

'Hello, I am sorry for reaching you rather too late due to the situation of things right now. My family and I had a trip visiting Manila Philippines, everything was going on fine until last night when we got attacked by some unknown gunmen. All our money, phones and credit cards was stolen away including some valuable items, It was a terrible experience but the good thing is that they didn't hurt anyone or made away with our passports.

We have reported the incident to the local authorities and the consulate but their response was too casual, we were asked to come back in 2 weeks time for investigations to be made proper, But the truth is we can't wait till then as we have just got our return flight booked and is leaving in few hours from now but presently having problems sorting out our bills here and also getting a cab down to the airport, Right now we're financially strapped due to the unexpected robbery

attack, Wondering if you can help us with a quick loan to sort out our bills and get back home. All we need is (2,850 pounds), I promise to refund you in full as soon as I return hopefully tomorrow or next. write back now to let me know what you can do. Thank you.'

If you find yourself receiving a similar e-mail please be aware it is a scam!!! If you receive one of these e-mails the sender will hack into your address book and forward that e-mail onto all your contacts. When your contacts receive the letter it will appear that it is sent from you. This is so the e-mail seems more credible to the person receiving it and they are therefore more likely to part with the cash to help you out. If you do receive one of these e-mails it is very important that you contact your service provider so they can (hopefully) recall the email or send an explanatory e-mail to everyone that got sent it. Time is of the essence when receiving one of these e-mails, the sooner you contact your service provider the less chance the e-mail has of getting out.

### **Changes to 'Local Policing' in Peterchurch - and beyond!**

There are a number of changes coming up from Monday 30th September which we'd like to tell you about.

Local Policing Teams will be known as Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) and the Local Police Officer will be the Safer Neighbourhood Officer (SNO).

Community Support Officers will be Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's)

PCSO's will have more powers including the power to detain; the power to issue fixed penalty tickets for a number of offences; the power to search for alcohol and tobacco, and the seizure of said items. PCSO's will now work until midnight on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

There will only be one Safer Neighbourhood Team working from Peterchurch which will be the Golden Valley team; the area known as Hereford Rural South will be covered from South Wye Police Station and merged with the Hinton & St Martin's Safer Neighbourhood Team. PCSO Kevin Powell, who has previously worked on the area for five years, will be the PCSO responsible for Hereford Rural South along with the Rotherwas Industrial Estate. He will carry on with the briefings for the area and the briefings from Peterchurch which Katie and I send out will just cover the Golden

Valley area from that date. I will be e-mailing all those on Hereford Rural South SNT separately to clarify this.

Peterchurch police station's future is still undetermined; as I write, several locations are being visited to establish suitability for an office for the Golden Valley SNT as and when this station is closed.

PCSO James Cooke will be leaving us (again) and will be working on the Belmont SNT - thanks for all your hard work over the past six months Jim.

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

#### **Horticultural Show**

Saturday 7th September was a bright, dry day, so all the hard work done by the helpers and the comings and goings of the exhibitors went unhindered by the weather.

As the visitors arrived at 2 o'clock the first things to notice were the colourful dahlias, which were very good this year. A new exhibitor Peter Gratton won the Rose Bowl and he had some lovely dahlias amongst his exhibits. Sadly it was not a good year for chrysanthemums and the Flowers Section was quite down on entries.

One of our regular exhibitors **Des Wathen** won the Harold Sainsbury Shield for his collection of Vegetables and the Horticultural Shield where he was just one point ahead of **Derek Scrivens**. He also won the David Enoch Cup for Best in Show for his Cucumbers.

**Janet Gwinnett** won the Floral Art Shield with her lovely and imaginative arrangements.

The Photo Cup is voted for by the visitors and this years favourite was a beautiful sunset taken by **Mike Johnson**. The standard of all the photographs this year was excellent.

The Children produced some great work again this year. The vegetable monsters are always great fun but this year the 'plasticine' flowers were works of art. There was even a single fuchsia flower displayed in a jewel box. The Children's Shield for the most points, and the Over 8's Cup was won by **Poppy Williams-Burton** and the Under 8's Cup went to **Poppy Scrivens**.

The Llewellyn Sutton Cup is presented to the family with the most points and this was won by the Scrivens Family. This consisted of **Derek Scrivens** and his grand-daughters **Poppy** and **Sophie**.

Domestic entries were back up after last year's drop and **Liz Callwood** won the Domestic Cup.

As this is a popular community event there is no charge for entries or visitors. There is always a great atmosphere at the Show and friends and neighbours enjoy the refreshments and a chat! We were short of helpers this year but our small team rallied round and, with many thanks to them, we produced another great show. Thanks also to the exhibitors and visitors for their support.

We will return again next year so do not miss us!

**Wed. Oct 30th.** Mr. Tony Titchen will give an illustrated talk entitled

**'Flowers of the Mediterranean'**

**Wed. Nov.27th.** Gail Plant will discuss

**'The Scented Garden Year'**

**Wed. Dec. 4th.**

**'Winter Social'**

Our usual evening of fun and feasting before winter arrives??

All meetings are held in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There will be a Plant Stall on October 30th. Visitors and new members always welcome. New members can now join for the next 5 months for just £5. A Bargain! John Bryant 540316.

### **Little Birch Village Hall Committee**

#### **Dog Show**

The seventh annual dog show was held on the Glebe field on 8th. September in good weather. This year there were 18 categories for pedigree and other dogs including many puppies. The Kennel Club judge came all the way from Lincolnshire.

Thanks to all who helped, took part and especially to Kate and John Dillon for use of the field.

#### **Parking**

The parking area outside the village hall will soon be resurfaced. To minimise disruption and allow access to the hall only half will be done at a time. Thanks are due to users who have put money in the box as requested. This has greatly helped with the expense.

#### **Musical Evening**

The musical evening scheduled for September 21st. had to be cancelled due to lack of sufficient interest.

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

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on Saturday 12th October at Little Birch Village Hall. All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable monthly event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests,) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for "a good read".

We had a good attendance last month and the welcoming atmosphere and refreshments are much appreciated. There is a charge of £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire of hall and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you on 12 October.

#### **Whist Drive**

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 8 October at Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30.p.m. The entrance fee is £2.00. We are always on the 'look out' for new members including those who are new to Whist and others who may not have played for some time. A warm welcome, good company and enjoyment of an evening of Whist may be just what you need! Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available.

#### **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

September 2013

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Meeting held on the 5th September 2013, at the Much Birch Community Hall. CSO Fiona Witcher came along

to update the meeting re local crime trends and to also say goodbye to Much Birch as the regional policing changes mean that she will no longer cover the area. The Chair, on behalf of the Parish, thanked Fiona for her six and a half years of reporting and attendance at the Much Birch Parish Council meetings. This had been much appreciated and she was given every good wish for her future career. CSO Kevin Powell would now be taking over the patch. Balfour Beatty had now taken over the Highways Contract from Amey on the 1st September and parishes were waiting for finalisation of reporting instructions for defects and issues to be made public.

A reminder that:-

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage,  
Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2  
8AW, e mail [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto: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,  
Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX,  
e mail [a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com)  
Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Terry Cook Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook  
Lane, Kingsthorpe, 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  
following the link found in this  
summary.[www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on  
Thursday 3rd October at 7.30pm - 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.

### **Little Birch Parish Field**

Although the flowers are still well out, they will  
probably have died back by the beginning of  
October. The area will then need to be strimmed.

We would welcome 2 or 3 people with strimmers  
to come and help on Saturday October 5th at  
10.30, weather permitting. Please keep an eye  
open for a notice at the field.

A week later on Saturday October 12th we will  
need several people to help rake up the cut  
vegetation, again weather permitting so please  
look out for a notice. The fence will be going up  
after that.

### **Much Birch 100 Club Draw**

The August draw took place on 13th August 2013  
in Much Birch Community Hall. The winners were:

1. No 66 – Mr & Mrs C.V. Thomas, King's Thorn
2. No 86 – Mrs. P. Rogers, Little Birch

The September draw took place on 8th September  
in Much Birch Community Hall. The winners were:  
No 59 – Mrs. S. Dymott, Much Birch

No 12 – Mr. P. Berry-Ottaway, Kivernoll

The next draw will take place 13th October 2013  
at 12.30 pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones Chairman

### **Much Birch Church News**

#### **Churchyard Clean-up**

A reminder that this will be taking place on  
Saturday, 28th September 2013 from 10is until  
12.30pm.

#### **Harvest Festival**

A Harvest Festival Service will be held at Much  
Birch Church on 13th October 2013 at 11am. This  
will be followed by a 'Bring and Share' Lunch in  
Much Birch Community Hall afterwards. All are  
welcome.

#### **'Flu Clinic Refreshments**

We are providing refreshments for the 'Flu Clinic  
session in the Community Hall on 19th October  
2013. Donations of cakes and savouries for sale  
would be gratefully appreciated. Please let the  
Churchwardens know if you can help in this way.

#### **The Priest and The Publican Evening**

This will be held on 1st November 2013 at 7.30am  
in Much Birch Community Hall. Details will be  
found elsewhere in this newsletter. Proceeds are

for to be shared between the Marie Curie Cancer Care and Much Birch Church.

### **Community Lunch**

We are arranging a Community Lunch to take place after the Benefice Service on 17th November in Much Birch Community Hall. The 2 course lunch will be at a cost of £5.00 and will be preceded by a speaker Dr. Ruth Roberts on her experiences as a Doctor in Africa. Further details next month. Tickets available from Sylvia Jones, tel: 01981 540980 or Shirley Dyke tel: 07787532720

### **The Evergreen Club**

On Tuesday 8 October our final trip for the year goes to Worcester. This will include a visit to the Worcester Porcelain Museum – with a talk by a master potter.

The cost is £12 which includes museum entrance, coffee and biscuits (£14 for non-members).

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

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
Fontein e Court	9.45

### **Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust**

5 College Cloisters - Hereford HR1 2NG  
01432 374261 tel - 01432 374220 fax  
[www.herefordcathedral.org/how-to-help/herford-cathedral-perpetual-trust](http://www.herefordcathedral.org/how-to-help/herford-cathedral-perpetual-trust)

You may wish to tune into BBC Radio 3 before then as the cathedral choir will be singing Choral Evensong, live from Hereford, on Wednesday 18 September at 3.30 pm. The programme is repeated the following Sunday and can also be found on BBC iPlayer for a 10 day period following the original broadcast. We hope you will be able to tune in!

### **Saturday 5 October**

Royal School of Church Music Annual Festival  
An extended Choral Evensong sung by a choir of over 300 members of the RSCM. All welcome. 5.30 pm

### **Monday 7 October**

Autumn party. A lunch hosted by Debra & Oliver Tritton and with guest speaker Tamsin Westhorpe, editor of the English Garden magazine on her job as an editor of a national gardening magazine. Munsley, near Ledbury. Please contact the Perpetual Trust office for further details (01432 374261).

### **Tuesday 8 October**

Mental Health: Life & Learning @ Hereford Cathedral

Dr Rachel Jenkins, Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology and International Mental Health policy at King's College, London and formerly Director of the World Health organisation's Collaborating Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry, will lead thinking about issues concerning mental health of the population and why attitudes towards it are of vital concern today. 01432 374226 to reserve a place.

### **Friday 11 October**

Military Wives Choir

A concert in support of the welfare work in Herefordshire of SSFA, the Royal British Legion, and the ABF The Soldiers Charity. The Marches Military Wives Choir, the choirs of Herefordshire Cathedral School and Tarrington Brass. Tickets available from the Cathedral Shop.

### **Sunday 13 October**

Shrieval service

The annual service hosted by the High Sheriff of Herefordshire to mark the work of the Judiciary and Magistracy. All welcome. 3.30 pm

### **Sunday 13 October**

The Evening Hour

A service of prayer for healing and wholeness, with words and music from Iona and Taizé and time for quiet reflection; all are welcome. The service is held on the second Sunday of each month. 5.30 pm

### **Sunday 20 October**

BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship broadcast  
Broadcast live from Hereford Cathedral. If you are joining us at the cathedral for the service please be seated by 8 am. Available on the BBC iplayer for the week following the service. 8.10 am

### **Tuesday 22 October**

## Church Services

### Little Birch

Oct 6th 11am Morning Worship

Oct 13th 11am Holy Communion

Oct 20th. 10.30am. Benefice Service at **Sellack**

6.30pm. Harvest Thansgiving

### Much Birch.

6.30pm Evensong

11.am Harvest Communion

Oct 27th.

9.15am Morning Worship