

# King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch & Much Birch – April 2008

## **M.B.P.C**

### **Parish Council Meetings**

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of each month (excluding August & January) at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Local residents are very welcome to attend and air their views in the Open Discussion. The next meeting is on **THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL**.

**Parish Clerk.** If you have any queries on Parish Council matters please telephone your Clerk on 01432 870874 or write to Mrs Kath Greenow, Hackford House, Dinedor Hereford, HR2 6PD.

## **Evergreen Club**

Our first trip of the year is on **TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**. As requested by a large majority of our members, we are having another afternoon tour of the Cotswolds with Mary Badger as our guide. We shall go to Tewkesbury for the morning and for lunch first. Mrs. Badger has suggested we travel east this time, and we shall all have tea together at the Bay Tree Hotel in Burford, which has a nice garden and a conservatory.

The cost will be £13, including tea (+ £2 for non-Members).

*The pick-ups are:-*

8.45	Brandon Coach Depot
8.55	Tump Lane (bungalows)
9.00	The Park, Wormelow
9.05	Tump Lane (Middle)
9.10	Poor Clares Convent
9.15	Kings Thorn Bus Shelter
9.20	M.B. Church Bus Stop
9.25	Axe & Cleaver Bus Stop
9.40	Merton Hotel
9.45	Fontaine Court

If you would like to come and have not already booked, please ring 01981-540932 (or, for this trip ONLY, 01981-541055).

### **Whist Drive**

This will be at little Birch Village Hall on **TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** at 7.30pm. The entrance fee is £1.50 There are excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are very welcome.

**James Cranston** – the man who shaped Little Birch

Come and listen to a talk by David Whitehead about this interesting character

## **DIARY DATES APRIL 2008**

- 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL – Much Birch Parish Council Meeting
- 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – Evergreen Club Outing
- 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – Whist Drive
- 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – Talk by David Whitehead LBVH
- 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – W.I. Open Meeting
- 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – Flicks in the Sticks
- 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL – Little Birch Village Hall AGM
- 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – Bingo
- 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – Village Market
- 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – Bluebell Rides & Robot Milking Machines
- 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – Gardening Club

### **ADVANCE NOTICES**

- 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY – Grand Designs & Posh Puds

whose decisions in the early 1800s shaped the way in which the common land was enclosed. Hear about the Cranston family who owned Kings Acre Nursery, a forerunner of Wyevale, and how James was involved in garden planning for a number of houses in the county. The talk is on **WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm. The entrance fee of £2.00 includes light refreshments.

### **WI**

The next meeting will take place on **TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** beginning at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall. It is our Open Meeting with Ellie Targett, from BBC Hereford and Worcester. The subject of the evening will be '*In my Father's shoes*'.

A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to join us for this meeting. There will, as usual, be a nominal charge for visitors.

For further details please contact Barbara Wilson (President) 01432 840559 or Kath Watts 01981 540382

### **Flicks in the Sticks**

*in association with Arts Alive*

This month's film – **THE MAGIC FLUTE PG** is at M.B. Community Hall, on **SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**.

For his spectacular take on Mozart's opera, Kenneth Branagh has set the film

during the First World War. Stephen Fry's witty translation tightens up the plot in which a young soldier is asked by the Queen of the Night to recover her daughter from the evil Sarastro. But, unsurprisingly, all is not as it seems!

**Doors open at 7.00pm and the film commences at 7.30pm.** Tickets are £3.50 (£2.50 under 16s) and are available in advance or on the door. For further information or to book tickets please call Bryony Connolly on 01981 541274.

This will be the last film of the Spring Season. Flicks will be back in September – watch this space for dates and films. If you would like to receive information about Much Birch Flicks by e-mail please send an e-mail to: [bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com](mailto:bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com) or visit [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk) where you can join their mailing list.

### **L.B. Village Hall AGM**

This takes place at 7.30pm. in Little Birch Village Hall on **WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL**. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be available. Come and see your partly refurbished hall and bring along any fund raising ideas/suggestions for ways forward following the disappointing Lottery grant news. If you are interested in getting involved with fund raising or Committee membership then please come along as we are always looking for new members. There will also

be a display of Pantomime photos from this year's Snow White performance.

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### **Bingo**

Eyes down at 8.00pm. for the next Bingo at Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**. There are excellent prizes and refreshments will be available.

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### **Much Birch Village Market**

The Market will take place on **FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** between 2.30pm and 4.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall. Cut your 'food miles'.... come along to support Herefordshire producers. For further details please contact Kath Watts 01981 540382

The Date for May is **FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>**.

As well as the usual producers, 2008 sees some new producers. Greenflynn greengrocers bring vegetables and fruit at reasonable prices and Lynn, from Fresh From the Field, will take orders for Free Range poultry, as well as bringing a small amount for sale on the day. The Country Fudge Company had a stand for the first time in January and has asked to come again, which is what we like to hear! Laura is bringing unusual herbaceous plants to help us look forward to summer. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we shall have a regular fishmonger too.

We wish Lorraine and Gordon Games, of Gorzac Farms, well, after their accident on the way to the January Market and look forward to seeing them again soon.

Please come to visit us and maybe enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake provided by Chris and Peter Dowsett and sold in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. If you have any queries please contact Kath Watts, 01981 540382.

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### **Bluebell Rides**

on **SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** at 2.00pm., 3.00pm. and 4.00pm. we are organising tractor and trailer rides to see the bluebells in Athelstan Wood and on your return you can see the robot milkers in action. A Cream Tea is included Adults £6.00, children 5-12 £3.00, Under 5's free. Donations to local charities and Air Ambulance. Ring Bob or Sue Mason to book - 01981 540032.

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### **Gardening Club**

On **WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** Michael Leech will be talking to Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club about Beth Chatto. The meeting will start at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village hall. As ever new members are always welcome to any meetings.

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### **Grand Designs – Posh Puds**

Punch on arrival

Come & hear the behind the scenes story of GRAND DESIGNS' visit to Hallow End House, Much Birch; the trials, tribulations, fun & excitement of building your own grand design.

Then try as many puds and desserts as your little tum can manage! Bring your own drink.

**SATURDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY** at 7.00pm. in Much Birch hall, For tickets at £10 per head Please ring: Lesley 01981 540366 or John 540980

This must be the perfect way to spend a Saturday evening!

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### **Local News**

A belated, but nonetheless warm welcome is given to LAVINIA and BRIAN BIRCH and their dogs who have come to live at Withycombe, Little Birch and we hope that they will soon settle into the community and make new friends. A warm welcome to MRS. INA McCREEDY who has come to live in Tump Lane. She has moved from Shenmore, but previously lived in Yew Lane, Much Birch.

Sadly, but mercifully, MRS. MARY JONES, erstwhile of Much Birch has died at the age of 95 years. She was a very accomplished musician and gave great service to the community. She joined the staff at Much Birch School under Miss Lawrence and then continued under the headship of Mr. Noel Lewis giving some 25 years of teaching. She is fondly remembered by ex-pupils now in their 40's and 50's and also taught many of their children. Mary was organist at Much Birch Church for some 40 years eventually retiring at 90. She also played the music for local concerts and pantomimes. A truly remarkable record!!

A few years ago she went to live at West Bank in Ross-on-Wye and was extremely well cared for by Helen and Chris Atkinson and the staff there. Her funeral service took place at Much Birch Church on March 4<sup>th</sup>, conducted by the Rev. Kay Garlick. We send our deepest sympathies to daughter, Kathleen and son, Owen and their families.

The funeral of ROBERT HARCUMBE of Orcop took place on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March at St. Junabius, Llandinabo, where he had worshipped for many years and had been churchwarden and treasurer.

The service was conducted by Rev. Kay Garlick and tributes were given by one of his brothers and by his daughter, Penny, who also read a tribute from her sister, Carol, who lives in Australia and was unable to be present. After the service,

Robert's body was laid to rest in the churchyard. We send our sincere condolences to his wife, Vera, and to Carol and Penny and their families.

A number of friends have been unwell recently including FRANK SHORT and FRANK COOKE. MRS. HOWORTH, lately of Kings Thorn, has been at Brockhampton for several years and will celebrate her 93<sup>rd</sup>. birthday on 25<sup>th</sup> March. MR. TOM HELME, erstwhile of Wormelow has also moved into Brockhampton. We send our best wishes to all who are ill at this time whether at home or in hospital. MRS. JOAN McLEOD of Tump Lane has now taken up permanent residency in a Nursing Home in Leominster, having left the County Hospital. We send her our best wishes.

ANDREW and JANET SHERWIN and their son PETER visited Much Birch on the first weekend in March and many people enjoyed seeing them again. They used to live in 1, The Old Shop, Much Birch but now live in Kettering, Northants.

DR. PETER GARLICK celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14<sup>th</sup> March and JOHN BRYANT was 75 on the same day, our congratulations to them both.

DR. GARLICK retires from Much Birch Surgery at the end of this month and we all wish him a long and happy retirement, richly deserved after serving the local community so well since 1976. The Surgery is hosting a tea party at Much Birch Community Hall on **SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL** to which all who would like to attend are invited.

DR. AVRIL SEFTEL has been appointed as Dr. Garlick's successor. She has been living in Much Birch for three years with her husband and two children. We welcome her and wish her many happy years in the Much Birch Partnership.

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### **Much Birch School PTFA**

Much Birch CE School PTFA arranged an extremely successful Auction of Promises in aid of School funds on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March which raised approximately £4,800

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

The **March** draw took place on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.15am.

The winners were:

1. No. 23 - Mr. & Mrs. H Potts - Monmouth
2. No. 13 - Mrs. Mary Pritchard – Much Birch

John Jones, *Chairman/Promoter*

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## **L.B.P.C.**

Report of the Little Birch Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th March. No interests were declared.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd January were read and signed as a true record.

### **Matters Arising**

A plaque is to be purchased by LBPC and located at the base of the Holy Thorn to commemorate Mr. J. Startin's contribution to the community.

The Communications Committee will be finalised during the next Much Birch Parish Council meeting. A constitution is currently being written.

**Village Hall** - Replacement windows, front door mat and new curtains have been ordered. A grant has been received to fund an outside container.

**Parish Lengthsman Scheme** - No further work has been completed by the Lengthsman. Contractor to start work shortly to clear School Lane, Chapel Pitch and Crows Nest Lane culverts.

**Parish Lane** - Correspondence received concerning questionnaires sent out by Much Birch Parish Council. Reply to be sent.

**Financial Report** - 6 cheques written and income received for payment of Little Birch Village Hall invoices.

**Correspondence** - A detailed list of all correspondence was given to the Parish Council and noted.

**Planning** - No planning correspondence received.

### **Any Other Business**

CSO Fiona Witcher informed the Parish Council that no crimes had been reported for the Parish. Bogus callers are preying on vulnerable parishioners in neighbouring areas. There has also been a spate of diesel and scrap metal thefts within the surrounding area. A request was made for the clerk to ask local residents if they want to receive the West Mercia Newsbeat newsletter via email.

Positive reactions have been received after the erection of kerbing in Crows Nest Lane. A site meeting with Councillor Richard Smith to take place to discuss the erection of posts and railings at the base of Crows Nest Lane.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

**WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY.**

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any issues concerning Little Birch Parish. Contact details are: Liz Callwood 540081 or [lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizcallwood@tiscali.co.uk).

## **Central Heating Oil**

By grouping together it is possible to pay less for our oil!

A co-ordinator gathers orders from people needing oil that month and contacts local companies for the best discounts. One dealer I spoke to said this was between 1/2 and 1% per litre, so on 1000 it could be up to £10.00. They are happy to do this because besides giving them a large order it

cuts down on their tanker journeys, allowing the driver to spend, say, a morning in one small area. The article I heard ordered 25,500 lts, for 27 drops.

If you are interested in the scheme or would consider co-ordinating it, contact me and we can see if it will be viable in our villages.

Lesley Lowe 01981 540366

[lesleylowe50@aol.com](mailto:lesleylowe50@aol.com)

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Although the following are not in our immediate area, they are close enough to warrant a mention in the Newsletter.

Overnight 2nd/3rd March a Honda CRV parked outside a property in Dinedor was broken into, an Ipod and a wallet containing credit cards were stolen.

On 5th March in the afternoon, two males were disturbed by a householder breaking into a parked vehicle in Dinedor. The men made off in a white Peugeot 106 hatchback, with a yellow light on the top, M\*\*\*YKF, we do have the full registration number, and enquiries to trace the vehicle are in hand. This vehicle was seen earlier by another resident of Dinedor, the male driver had knocked at her door asking if she was selling a van. She described him as late 20's, about 6' with dark hair. He had a tattoo on his arm, and she noticed a speech impediment, possibly a lisp.

Here also are the details of a van which was spotted acting suspiciously in the St Weonards/ Orcop area a couple of weeks ago.

A householder saw this vehicle, a light coloured Ford Transit V\*\*KOA coming at speed along the road towards her property, it then swung into the driveway at the end of the garden where her partner's workshop was, and it pulled up alongside the doors. At this point the householder went out and challenged the driver, a male in his late 20's to early 30's with dark curly hair and an Irish accent. He said he was after old batteries, and was then sent on his way. There was a younger female in the passenger seat.

Exactly the same thing happened at this address before Christmas, but it was a different vehicle, although the caller was pretty sure it was the same man, he seemed to know exactly where to go.

Let us know if this vehicle has called at your address.

If you have any information on any of the above incidents, please contact us.

A Belle cement mixer was stolen from a property under renovation in Kings Thorn in the past couple of weeks - also an attempt was made to force entry to a container where other tools are stored.

A few days ago, a householder in the Hentland area was approached by a team of tarmac layers offering to do some work on their drive, as they had some tarmac left over from another job - sound familiar?

The householder agreed for a small patch to be done, but within a few minutes the whole drive was being done, and a bill for over £4,000 was presented, which the householder refused to pay. The man has been very threatening, and has been constantly ringing the address. Police and Trading Standards are dealing with the incident. The householder is within his rights not to pay as he should have been given a 7 day cooling off period after receiving a quote before the work was done.

Obviously, we strongly recommend that you never agree to any work being carried out as a result of 'cold calling', but if you do, it's worth knowing about the 7 day cooling off period.

Finally, a vehicle parked in the Wormelow area had items stolen from it whilst the driver had temporarily left the vehicle unattended with the engine running last Saturday morning.

## **Your Officers based @ Peterchurch**

### **Local Police Officer**

**PC Andrew Bundy**

**Mobile No: 07855 385 844**

**Email:**

[andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

### **Community Support Officers**

**CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher**

**Mobile No: 07779 141232**

**Email:**

[fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**CSO 6993 Kevin Powell**

**Mobile No: 07779 141 232**

**Email:**

[kevin.powell@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kevin.powell@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**Hereford Rural South Answer phone**

**01432 346756**

**Non-Emergency phone**

**08457 444 888**

**Emergency phone 999**

## **Your Local Representatives**

### **East**

**JOHN BULBECK - 540178**

### **Central**

**BOB PETERS - 540670**

### **West**

**BETTY PHILPOTT - 540614**

***Items/Copy***

Please may I have items for the **MAY** issue via post to :  
Mrs. S.E. Mathews, Folly Cottage, Little Birch, HR2 8BD; or left in the post box at 'Bramleys' or by email attachment in Word format to: [sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sarah.mathews@tiscali.co.uk) by

**Please note there are  
new advertisers this  
month**

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**18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

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