



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury.

February 2016. First published 1977.

Much Birch Community Hall

A Fascinating talk about

THE BLOODHOUND PROJECT



The **BLOODHOUND Project** is a global Engineering Adventure, using a 1000mph world land speed record attempt to inspire the next generation to enjoy, explore and get involved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Friday, 12th. February

7.30 p.m.

Much Birch Community Hall

An illustrated talk by Nic Chapman, the PR Manager for the project

He will explain the details of this amazing machine and how they are working towards this new land speed record.

The event is in aid of funds for both the Much Birch Community Hall and the Much Dewchurch Memorial Hall.

Tickets: £8
from Roger and Jenny Williams
01981 540658

Planning in Aconbury

We would like to say a big thank you to all the people who sent in objections to Hereford Council regarding the plans to build on Duchy land close to the south side of Aconbury Woods. As other residents were in favour of this development this has now been referred to Herefordshire's full planning committee, largely due to the amount of public interest shown in this sensitive location.

*David and Lucy Cook
Michael Leigh*

The Evergreen Club

NOTICE OF AGM

This takes place at Much Birch Community Hall on Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 2.30pm. - followed by tea and biscuits.

For more information, please ring Bridget on **01981 540932**.

Diary Dates

February

- 5th and 6th Pantomime LBVH
- 9th Whist Drive LBVH
- 9th MBCH—MBPC Meeting
- 9th Neighbourhood Plan Meeting MBCH
- 10th Pancake Evening LBVH
- 13th Book Exchange Old Methodist Chapel
- 16th WI MBCH
- 17th LBVH—LBPC Meeting
- 17th Neighbourhood Planning Meeting LBVH
- 24th Gardening Club LBVH
- 26th Village Market MBCH
- 27th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

March

- 8th Easter Prize Bingo LBVH
- 8th Evergreen Club AGM MBCH
- 26th Village Market MBVH

Church Services in February



- Feb 7th. 11.00am LBirch CW Communion
- Feb 14th. 09.15am MBirch Family Communion
11.00am LBirch Morning Worship
- Feb 21st. 09.15am MBirch CW Communion
11.00am LBirch BCP Communion
- Feb 28th. 09.15am MBirch Matins
11.00am LBirch Family Service

Please send copy for the March 2016 Newsletter to birchesnews@gmail.com or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.
—by 18th February please.

LOCAL NEWS



Donations to the Newsletter over the last few months are gratefully acknowledged.

It is good to report that a few days after publication of this newsletter we will have a centenarian in the community. Congratulations to Don Austins of Lindenbrook Kingsthorne who will be 100 years old on February 17th. He lives on his own, still drives regularly and can often be seen shopping at Tesco Belmont.

Except for army service in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry Don has spent almost all of his life in Herefordshire. He was born in Hereford, lived in Ledbury road and went to St James school. As a young man he worked in a solicitors office after which he excelled as a travelling salesman including selling refrigerators and lubricating oils. No doubt it was during this work that he was able to collect and remember his huge range of jokes!

Don and his wife Betty came to Kingsthorne in the early 70's where they became well known in the Wrigglebrook area. Betty was a security officer at Meadow Market at Withington where she fortunately survived being shot during a robbery.

Many people will remember Don as an enthusiastic performer in several pantomimes run by Margaret Stevens in Little Birch village hall. Others will fondly remember the well attended and "unusual" surprise party to celebrate his 70th birthday at the Railway Inn Bodenham organised by his family.

Don has a daughter Sue (b.1944) and a son Chris (b.1955) as well as four grandchildren. Prompted by his family he recorded aspects of his life which they published as a book entitled Childhood and Other Memories as a surprise Christmas present in 1999. The book was sold in several local bookshops that also had a advertising poster including his portrait. Does anyone still have a copy?

We wish Don a happy and eventful day on the 17th that he plans to spend with his family.

Belated Congratulations are extended to Betty and Graham Philpot who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in late November. They kindly arranged a Tea-Party in Little Birch Village Hall on Sun. November 22nd. when some 60 guests enjoyed splendid refreshments and a chance to meet up with old friends from the community. Thank you Betty and Graham.

Congratulations also go to Carla Gillespie and John Fernyhough on the birth of their son, Bobby Jack, a new brother for Alfie and Freddy.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs Mary Pritchard of King's Thorn who broke her leg whilst gardening just before

Christmas and we send our good wishes for a speedy recovery. Dennis is now head cook and bottle washer!

The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Peggy Newman took place at Much Birch Church on Sat. 12th. December conducted by the Rev. Mark Johnson. Peggy was 98 years old. Her son Jonathan gave the tribute on behalf of the family and due acknowledgement is made for using some of that tribute here.

Peggy was born in 1917 and grew up in London between the 2 World Wars. She had a very happy childhood with her younger sister and brother and spoke fondly of her parents. She discovered fashionable clothes as a young woman and choosing clothes to buy and wear remained a pleasure throughout her life. She was always smartly dressed. She married Geoff during WW2, who was then in the RAF flying as a navigator during the latter stages of the war and he came through unharmed.

Peggy's family however were bombed out of their home and many of her wider family and friends were killed on active service.

Peggy and Geoff had two sons, Andrew and Jonathan, and they lived with Geoff's father in North Bournemouth and Peggy kept house. A few years later, they bought with Geoff's sister, a big old fashioned house close to the sea at Southbourne and there Peggy looked after her father in law until he died. Three years later, Peggy's own parents became seriously ill and she went to care for them at their home in Kent, leaving her two sons to stay with her sister, Trissie, and her family. Over a long summer, she cared for her parents and grandmother and spent time with each of them in turn in hospital prior to their deaths.

Peggy was now 40 and life became a little easier for her. She was very involved with the Church in Southbourne and was a member of the Young Wives group and Enrolling member of the Mother's Union and she remained a member for most of her life.

At the age of 50, Peggy and Geoff moved to a new bungalow in Highcliffe but sadly, soon after the move, her brother Donald and her much loved sister, Trissie, both died in their late 40's. From then on Peggy felt a special link with Trissie's daughters, Margaret and Kay.

The new bungalow had a very large garden and Peggy had not had the opportunity to do much gardening up to this point. She became very knowledgeable gardener and was particularly fond of Camellias, Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Roses.

Peggy and Geoff both loved singing in the Church choir and the Community choir. They watched the lives of their sons develop with marriage, careers and grandchildren. Peggy was not done with her role as carer in turn caring for her sister in law and later for Geoff as he became

poorly. At 87, she found herself a widow with no family nearby, Andrew was living in the USA and Jonathan was on the move. She decided to come and live in Much Birch, close to Kay and Peter Garlick and in due course, Margaret and Rev. Keith Blackburn when they retired to St. Weonards. As a result, she received help and support from people she loved and Peggy gave much love and support in return. She lived in a bungalow with a large garden in Church Lane and latterly in an annexe at Birch Lodge, specially renamed 'Camellia Cottage'. She sang in the church choir for many years and made many new friends here while maintaining old friendships by letter. She will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends and we send our sincere sympathies to her family and to Kay and her family for their care of Peggy over many years. Donations in memory of Peggy were made to 'Save the Children and Much Birch Church.

The whole community was sad to hear of the passing of Sydney Hitching, known to everyone as Syd.

Syd with brother, Les, came to Little Birch from Battersea in London via Hove, as evacuees in World War 2. In Little Birch they were welcomed by the late Mr and Mrs. Harry Walker at Castle Cottage, who already had 2 sons, John and Bill. Syd attended Little Birch School and left aged 14 to work as a farm hand at Castle Nibole Farm. He lived in at the farm and his sister, Non, came to live with Les and the Walker family at Castle Cottage, towards the end of the war.

In the early 1950's, he met Eunice, a local girl, and they started courting. In 1953, they married at Llandinabo Church and set up home in Sunny Cot, almost opposite to Castle Nibole Farm, and Syd remained there until the last few weeks of his life.

Diane was born in 1958 followed by Paul in 1961 and Eunice spent much of her time looking after them as well as doing seasonal fruit picking at Snells, work at the Axe and Cleaver and much later at the mushroom farm near to the Axe in Much Birch. The children went to the old School at Much Birch under the tutelage of Miss Lawrence as Little Birch School had closed in 1959. Diane and Paul completed their education in Ross.

In 1950, a serious accident occurred at the bottom of the 'Callow', when 2 local motorcyclists were in collision with a car containing policemen returning from a cricket match in Ross. Chris Baugh(?) was the local policeman and Syd took him in the milk van down to the scene of the accident.

In the winter of 1981-82, heavy snow fell soon after Christmas and Syd battled to get the milk delivered and only failed once when the snow was waist high and he couldn't dig out the van. For many days, crates of milk were left at the Bus Shelter for residents to help themselves and as the road through King's Thorn was

closed, Syd dragged a sledge with crates of milk from the bus shelter up to the Post Office and Stores. In those days, milk was delivered in pint glass bottles, plastic containers had not then come into service. Syd was one of those people who held being part of the community as being very important. To many elderly folk, he could not have been more helpful and often brought enough coal or logs into the homes to last for the whole day. He was up by 5.30am to start delivering in all winds and weather. He even made time to teach Selby Lloyd to drive!

In 1991, Eunice was diagnosed with cancer and a new side to Syd was seen, the one who cared and cooked and learned how to use the washing machine. He was keen to make sure that Eunice spent as much time as possible at home in Sunny Cot. Sadly, Eunice died in 1993 after a brave fight against her illness.

Diane and Paul have great memories of mum and dad, holidays with Syd's family in London and then to the south coast and family trips to Devon, Dorset and Cornwall with the extended family.

In retirement, Syd had the grandchildren, James and Clare, to keep him young at heart. He first picked them up from nursery school and then from intermediate school. He was a favourite of course because he always had sweets in his pocket for each of them. As James and Clare grew older, he didn't need to ferry them home from school but always visited on a Tuesday to share in a family tea with Paul and Karen.

He also took holidays with Diane to stay with sister Non and Ron in Weymouth. He faithfully delivered the Village Newsletter for some 15 years and always grew a variety of vegetables in the large garden at Sunny Cot. He only gave up driving a few years ago.

Even in this last year, 2015, when he became much more frail, he was determined to stay at home and with the help from family, district nurses and Surecare, he was able to do so until the last few weeks of his life when he had to go into the County Hospital in mid November. His stay in Frome and Lugg wards was marked by the great care that the nursing staff were able to give. He passed away peacefully a few days before Christmas, almost the last of the line of 8 children, only Les, his younger brother is left.

Donations in memory of Syd went to Cancer Research UK and St. Michael's Hospice. We send our deepest sympathies to Diane, Paul and Karen, James and Clare. He will be remembered with respect and affection throughout the community in Little Birch, King's Thorn and Much Birch. He was much more than just a milkman!

It is also sad to record the death of Terence (Terry) Mock at the age of 83 years. His funeral service took place on 11th. January at Hereford Crematorium and was conducted by Rev. Preb. Kay Garlick.

Terry was born in Ilfracombe to Lesley and Verena Mock.

Shortly after Terry was born the family moved with elder brother, Paul, to Upper Breinton which was home to Verena's family. There were several more moves within the county and the family settled in Much Birch when Terry was four years old. Both Paul and Terry attended Much Birch school.

When he left school, Terry started work in the building industry. He joined the RAF when he was 18 years of age. At this time, whilst living with his parents at the Vicarage, Little Dewchurch that he met his wife to be, Ivy, whose parents owned the village post office and bakery.

Ivy and Terry married and started married life at the Post Office with Ivy's family. Pauline was born in Nov. 1954 and the family moved to a flat in Tump Lane, Much Birch. When a cottage came up for sale nearby, Terry jumped at the chance to buy it with his parents and for many years the family lived together at 'Belle Vue' until Terry's mother passed away in 1964 and his father moved to a local flat until his death in 1971.

Terry and Ivy's family grew with the arrival of Haydn in 1958. However, they lost a daughter, 'Charmaine', soon after her birth in 1963 but were delighted at the safe arrival of daughter, Beverley, in 1965.

In the 1960's, when it was fashionable to make a feature of fireplaces in the lounge of new homes, Terry was very much in demand to build these and there are many examples of his fine workmanship still to be seen, if one knows where to look for them.

There were many happy memories of life at 'Belle Vue' but the family faced great sadness when Ivy became seriously ill in 1974 and passed away in October 1975, three days before Terry's 43rd. birthday. Ivy had been the mainstay of the family and Terry and the children felt an overwhelming sense of loss which was to stay with them for many years. Somehow the family muddled through and when the children left home, Terry continued to live at 'Belle Vue', firstly alone for several years and then with his friend and partner, Lynne Baker, until she died and he found himself alone again.

Terry hated being on his own and was a familiar figure waiting at the bus stop on the A49 to catch the bus into Ross to enjoy the company of his pals for a drink and a smoke. He did this for many years until his mobility became more and more of a problem. He was fiercely independent and resisted a move from the cottage for some while but then agreed to move into a mobile home at daughter, Pauline's and son in law, Wyn's farm at Three Ashes. Although Terry missed his beloved Belle Vue at first, he gradually came to love his new home, taking great delight in the magnificent views across the fields from his window, watching the tractors working the fields and seeing the ponies, hens and ducks and a variety of wildlife, including foxes and birds of prey.

Terry managed to get to Ross a couple of times most weeks to see his best friend Karen and his pals until his last visit in September. When it became apparent that he could no longer get to Ross, he enjoyed watching TV and chatting to his family who called in numerous times a day to check all was well. He enjoyed his Sunday visits from Haydn and they spent many hours reminiscing about all the motor bikes and cars that Terry had owned over the years, places that Terry had worked and things he had built.

Terry took great pride in the achievements of his children and grandchildren Richard, Rebecca, Sarah, Hayley and Bradley and was delighted to become a great grandfather to Harry, Jack, Leah May, Macey and Riley. He looked forward to seeing his great grandchildren, Harry and Jack who called in several times a week to see Grandad Terry and his tin of Roses chocolates.

Terry was a man of few words who cared nothing for material things. To him it was never important to have the grandest house, the newest car, the biggest TV or a wallet full of money. He faced many personal challenges and like most of us, wished that some things in his life had turned out differently but those who knew him best knew that Terry was a very shy, humble man with a wry sense of humour and was someone who would go that extra mile for his friends.

He earned immense respect from his family and friends for the way he battled against his failing health. His sheer determination kept him going when many would have given up. He never complained, asked for anything or made a fuss. He simply accepted things for the way they were and worried more about the way his illness affected the lives of those around him.

Terry's last wish was that he would be able to die with his family around him and fortunately, this was the case. Terry was admitted to St. Michael's Hospice on 22nd. December and passed away peacefully on Christmas Eve with those who loved him most at his side.

We send our sincere condolences to Pauline, Haydn and Beverley and their families. Donations in memory of Terry were given for the work of St. Michael's Hospice.

The whole community was shocked and stunned to hear of the sudden death of Tessa Hoyes at the age of 59 years. Tessa was born at Blackhart Cottages, Little Birch the third daughter of Doris and Ernest Hoyes. Her elder sisters were Pauline and Annette and her younger sister, Jacki.

She was educated at Much Birch School under Miss Lawrence and then finished her education at Redhill School.

She later worked and lived in Hereford for some 20 years and then returned to Little Birch with daughter, Toni. Her life was centred around Toni and her love of animals. She had an innate sense of being able to get on with all nature and particularly cats, having some 25 of them around at one stage.

Toni became interested in riding ponies and later had her own horse which Toni and Tessa fed and watered every day.

Tessa moved from Church Farm Bungalow some 8 years ago when Toni moved to Gloucester. She had a flat at Rock View at the bottom of Parish Lane. She was very much a lover of nature and when a teenager was seen 'kicking' a hedgehog, she sent him off with a 'flea in his ear' and cared for the animal herself. She also kept a budgerigar and this bird even perched on her shoulder while she was vacuuming. She also looked after her neighbours pets whenever their owners were ill or on holiday.

She was delighted when Toni had a baby daughter 2 years ago, Ruby, and would welcome the opportunity to 'spoil her' and nurse her whenever they visited. Toni and her partner, Luke, and Ruby now live at Symond's Yat.

Over 50 friends and relatives gathered today (19th Jan) for her funeral service at Hereford Crematorium and we send our sincere sympathies to Toni, Luke and baby Ruby, to her sisters Pauline, Annette and Jaqui and their families in this untimely loss of Tessa.

Donations were made to Much Birch Surgery.

COLIN SWIFT

Menna, Jill and Sue wish to thank Friends and Neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, support, attendance at the Funeral Service and donations to St. Michael's Hospice in his memory. They were much appreciated.

Over the last few months we have noticed a massive increase in the amount of dog fouling around our street, even in the play area. We have noticed certain people who never seem to carry "poo bags".

But this is a warning to those that allow dog fouling. Anyone allowing this to happen will be prosecuted.

A bit drastic but I hope it will be effective. Thanks Doreen Joseph

Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI meet on the third Tuesday of each month in Much Birch Community Hall, just off the A49. The Hall is next door to the surgery and both are signed from the road.

Meetings begin at 7.30 pm.

February 16th 'A Fascination for Hats' by Lenette Isko

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

Please contact Caroline on 01981 540422 for further details.

Much Birch Village Market.

Much Birch Village Market takes place on the 4th Friday of the month in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm.

The February Market is on the 26th.

Please join us in supporting local suppliers of food and crafts.

For further information please contact Mark on 01432 278026

Institute of Advanced Motorists, Herefordshire

IAM Herefordshire run Skill for Life courses, helping to develop safer driving, at Much Birch Community Hall four times a year.

Each course has three two hour evening sessions and includes accompanied drives, in your own vehicle, with one of our trained Observers, at times which are mutually convenient.

The first course of 2016 begins on March 1st.

Early booking is essential in order to be registered with IAM.

For further details please contact David Williams on 01981 580382 or email chief-observer@iam-herefordshire.org.uk



Little Birch Village Hall Pantomime 2016

Camelot

The Pantomime

(Director and Producer Jane Bolam)

Friday & Saturday February 5th & 6th 7.30 pm

Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Tickets available from:

Jackie 01981 541027

Margaret 01981 540374

**Adults £6.50
Under 14 £4**



Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Little Birch Village Hall Pantomime 2016

Our 2016 Pantomime is **Camelot** and will be held on **Friday & Saturday February 5th & 6th 7.30 pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm**

This is always a thoroughly enjoyable performance and our 2016 Panto promises to be the best yet.

Tickets are available from: Jackie 01981 541027 or Margaret 01981 540374

Adults £6.50

Under 14's £4

Whist Drive

We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company at our monthly whist drive whatever your ability.. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday February** at Little Birch Village Hall.

We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.



LBVH Annual Pancake Evening

We would love you to join us at Little Birch Village Hall at **7:30pm on Wednesday 10th February** for a selection of delicious homemade pancakes with a variety of fillings, savoury and sweet!

£2.50 for two and 50p for each additional one you can manage! We look forward to seeing you there.

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next **Book Exchange** will be on the morning of **Saturday 13th February** at the **former Methodist Chapel 10am – 12pm**.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable 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".

A warm welcome, tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided and we look forward to meeting up with regular and new visitors to the Book Exchange.

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire and refreshments.

Advance Notice - Easter Prize Bingo

This is always a fun evening with great prizes and refreshments. **Tuesday 8th March** at Little Birch Village Hall. Eyes down at 8pm.

Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

The first meeting of the New Year takes place on Wed. January 27th. with a talk by John Arnfield on 'Attracting more birds into the garden'.

On Wed. February 24th, the ever popular and enthusiast, Duncan Coombs, is the speaker and his illustrated talk will feature 'A Spring visit to Japan's gardens and countryside' All meetings are held in Little Birch Village Hall at the top of the Barrack Hill.

New members are always welcome.

John Bryant 01981 540316

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The January draw took place on 10th January 2016 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30 am and the results were as follows:

1 st prize – No 30	2 nd prize - 11	3 rd prize – No. 18
Miss V. Thomas	Ms R. Wilson	Mr. H. Watson
Much Birch	Much Birch	Wormelow

The next draw will take place on 14 February 2016 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones—Promoter

FLICKS IN THE STICKS
at Much Birch Community Hall

**BORDERLINES
FILM FESTIVAL
2016**

Saturday 27th February, 2.30pm - SONG OF THE SEA PG

From Tomm Moore, director of The Secret of Kells, comes this enchanting, breathtakingly gorgeous Oscar-nominated animation. Based on the Irish legend of the Selkies, it tells the story of Saoirse, the last seal-child who goes on an epic journey with her brother Ben to save the world of magic and discover the secrets of their past.

Friday 4th March, 7.30pm - 45 YEARS 15

It's just one week before the 45th anniversary party of devoted couple Kate and Geoff (Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay) when he receives a letter out of the blue. The body of his ex-girlfriend has been found perfectly preserved after falling into a glacier in the Swiss Alps 50 years earlier. The emotional fallout of the discovery puts untold strains on their relationship as Geoff lets his mind wander back to the past and Kate finds herself impotent in the face of his grief.

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Refreshments including hotdogs available from half an hour before film.

Tickets available in advance or on the door – for further info or to book tickets call 01981 540097 or email bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com

For further information about films and screenings visit www.artsalive.co.uk (online booking available!)



LITTLE BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Mike Morley
Parish Clerk: Mrs Sophie Glover

The Orchard, Ridgehill, Hereford, HR2 8AG

Tel: 01432 270499 Email:
littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

COMPLETING A NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

The Localism Act has reformed the planning system to give **local people** new rights to shape the development of the communities in which they live.

Neighbourhood Development Plans will give communities an increased ability to influence planning within their areas. They will also need to demonstrate involvement of the local community in decision making and be subject to a community referendum.

Once such a plan is made or adopted, it will become a statutory plan carrying equal weight to the Local Plan and be part of the Local Development Frame-work. This will mean that it will be used in making decisions on planning applications by Herefordshire Council in our area.

What are the next steps?

We will be holding an **information evening in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 17th February 2016** Mrs Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive Herefordshire Association of Local Councils, will give a presentation about the process that we would need to follow to draw up our own Neighbourhood Development Plan. Also speaking will be Mr Tony Priddle, Chair of Callow and Haywood PC's Neighbourhood Development Planning Group, who are in the final stages of producing their NDP, and he will talk about the pros and cons of doing a NDP.

The newly developed Herefordshire Council Core Strategy will mean that there will be a significant number of new properties built and that the NDP is our opportunity to influence where we as parishioners would like those homes to be built and where we wouldn't. If you are interested in being involved in shaping our community and are keen to be a part of putting the plan together, do come to the meeting and find out more. Everyone is welcome and we would love to hear your views.

Mrs Sophie Glover Parish Clerk

A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Much Birch Parish?

"Every village in Herefordshire will have to grow in the next decade.

A Neighbourhood Plan gives us a greater say in where these homes will be built."

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) based on the Localism Act is a short document replacing thousands of pages of detailed rules. It removes many of the old planning restrictions and encourages strategic development at national, regional and local levels. The NPPF has been implemented at our local level by Herefordshire Council through The Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031 (adopted October 2015) which sets out new guidance for development and change in the county for towns, villages and settlements over the next 20 years. .

The Localism Act also makes provision for Neighbourhood Development Plans through which communities led by their Parish Councils are positively encouraged to produce their own development plans for their area taking on board the Strategic Objectives of the local plan in our case the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan establishes local planning policies for the development and use of land such as where new homes should be built and what they should look like. The plan can be detailed or general, depending what local people want. It must however reflect the Herefordshire **Core Strategy**. (For further detail please refer to Herefordshire Council web site.)

The process of the development of the plan (which has to be submitted to the Council for final ratification and when agreed be the subject of a local referendum) will take time and resources and the first task of the Parish Council is to "Get the community on board" and establish a team which may include members of the community who are not on the Parish Council

This is our chance to set planning policies for our own community so:

- What do you want our community to look like in 10 or 20 years' time?
- Where should new developments be built? What should new development look like?
- What other planning policies should be in place for our parish, villages and countryside?

Neighbourhood Planning is a new opportunity for us. Until now all planning policy was set by central government or Herefordshire Council. Parish councils are consulted on planning applications but had no power to shape or set local planning policy. All this has changed under the government's Localism Act and the new planning framework. Our community now has the opportunity to set planning policies for our parish by devising its own Neighbourhood Development Plan. Without this plan, policies and decisions on development will continue to be out of our hands for years to come, and there will be fewer restrictions on development in our community.

The Parish Council needs your backing to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Development Plan as it must be led by the Parish Council and involve the whole community. People other than councillors should be actively involved in leading the work and so we need people to join the Steering group or helping out in lots of other ways.

A meeting is being held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 @ 7:30 at Much Birch Community Centre when Sam Banks from Herefordshire Council will be there to explain how a Plan is put together, what needs to be done and how we do it.

We need **EVERYONE** to reply so please return your response slip by **19th February 2016** to:
Mrs A Wright, Longfield House, Goose's Foot, Kingstone, Hereford, HR2 9NE
Or: by email to: muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk Or: bring it to the meeting.

RESPONSE SLIP

Do you want Much Birch Parish Council to start work on a Neighbourhood Development Plans? ☐ YES ☐ NO

I would like to help with producing a Neighbourhood Plan by:

Being on the Steering Group Yes/No
Other volunteer work Yes/No

Name:

Address:

Telephone:Email Address:

South Hereford Rural Police Briefing



About your team

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods.

Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us – in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.



Your team

(Part of the Southside Team)

SGT Emma Freer 1348

PC Brian Hillstead 0397

PCSO Lowri Anderson 40247

Get in touch

101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime
herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
www.westmercia.police.uk

Herefordshire Cops / @southsidecops
Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

The West Mercia Police area and especially South Herefordshire remains low crime. That said a number of incidents have occurred and I would ask you to have a look at these to see if you could help with any information which may assist us in bringing the offenders to justice. Let me know if you need any crime prevention advice.

For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via www.westmercia.police.uk.

Should you wish to review crime and anti-social behaviour trends in your area over a longer period this can be done by visiting www.police.uk.

Incidents of Note

Garway

Sheep which are being grazed of the common are being attacked and killed by dogs. If you are walking your dogs on the common and they like to chase sheep, keep them on a lead. If you would like more information on the Law regarding keeping your dogs under control, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kingstone

KEZ Childcare in Kingstone has had a few incidents lately where youths have entered the grounds in the hours of darkness. The youths have been drinking and smoking, leaving their litter behind. They have also broken items and toys that the little ones who attended the nursery very much enjoy playing with. I ask you, if you have children who are of the teenage age, explain to them how their actions effect others and also how a police record will effect them in later life. What might seem fun to them now might stop them getting their dream job or travelling to certain countries for example.

Pontrilas

0154s 100116 - A cottage in a rural location in Pontrilas has been broken in to. The property was part way through being renovated and was uninhabited. A substantial amount of damage was caused, nothing was taken.

Bogus Callers

There was an incident in December where a resident in a very rural location in St Weonards had two males come to the door with a map asking for directions. One of the males asked for a drink of water. The resident asked them both to stay outside but pushed their way passed and went to the kitchen. The male drank his water and they both left. A few days later the resident was making a purchase in a shop and then realised her bank card had been swapped for another. If you are unsure, don't open the door and call 101.

Suspicious Incidents

If you see a vehicle acting in a suspicious way please get the registration number (if possible) and call it in. For example, if you see a vehicle parked up in an entrance to a field, if you see anyone you believe to be poaching, if you see a vehicle driving around residential areas slowly or if you feel the vehicle is where it just shouldn't be, call it in. Same goes for if you see a person acting in a suspicious manor or where they shouldn't be, call it in with a description. Help us, Help you.

Pedal Cycle Thefts

Thefts of bicycles are still an issue. If you leave your bike anywhere, even for a minute, lock it up, even in your own garden. Don't run the risk. If you would like more information on how to protect your bicycle, please email or call.

If you have any information regarding any of the above you can contact Hereford Police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999. Please be aware that any information provided within this letter is to inform you of incidents of note and to request possible assistance. We do not want to worry you in any way. Any incidents stated are infrequent and spread about a wide area. Herefordshire is a safe place to live!

Where we will be ...

10th January – Orcop Village Hall. PCSO Anderson and PCSO Witcher will be discussing Scams, Bogus Callers and other security issues with Age concern. Coffee with a Cop - 30th January PCSO Cohen will be ASDA from Midday onwards. If there are any events you wish for us to attend, please get in touch. These can be anything from fetes to coffee mornings, mother and toddler groups to Flu clinics.

Kind regards

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT West Mercia Police

If you would like to receive this Briefing via email, please

email herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

“Politeness” has become a rather old fashioned concept in our “modern society”. But there is an organisation who still promote those values and would welcome your support. Originally the “Polite Society” and now renamed “The National Campaign for Courtesy” , the aims are to fight obscenity, selfishness and greed and to promote good manners, respect (for yourself and others) and rejection of anti-social behaviour.



If you are interested in learning more about this please visit our website www.campaignforcourtesy.org.uk or telephone Peter Foot 020 8330 3707

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

16th January 2016

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th January at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting heard about local planning applications and discussed these to formulate comments to be sent to the Local Planning Authority, Herefordshire Council.

The Much Birch Parish Council is going to be holding a Neighbourhood Plan Information Evening on the 9th February in the Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm. This will be an opportunity to find out more about what a Neighbourhood Plan is and how you can become involved in helping to shape the ideas for the Parish, going forward, in terms of planning for homes and other related topics such as transport, leisure, employment and facilities. When finalised, the Neighbourhood Plan will become a consultation document that has legal status in the consideration of planning applications for the area. Further information, and details, will be published ahead of the 9th February and there is a special information note about the subject in this publication.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be an Ordinary Meeting and this will be held on **Thursday 4th February 2016 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.

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 Tel. 01981 540703

CLlr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com and Tel. 01981 540090

CLlr Andrew Crum Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail a.crum@btinternet.com
Tel. 01981 540002

CLlr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail tjsj@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

CLlr Ben Roberts Lynwood, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AR b3nroberts@gmail.com Tel. 01981 540100

CLlr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX roisinburge@hotmail.com Tel. 01981 540724

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.

You can also find us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>