

King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

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

Much Birch Village Market

Don't forget the next Market which is on **FRIDAY 25TH APRIL** between 2.30pm and 4.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall. Cut your 'food miles'.... come along to support Herefordshire producers.

The **MAY** market is **FRIDAY 23RD**. As well as the usual producers, we have some new ones. 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.

For further details please contact Kath Watts 01981 540382

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.

Unfortunately there are no minutes for publication this month.

Next meeting

THURSDAY 1ST MAY at 7.00pm. is the Annual Meeting of Much Birch Parish. It will be followed by the AGM of MB. Parish Council and then the Parish Council Meeting.

Parish Clerk

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

DIARY DATES MAY 2008

- 1ST MAY – M.B.P.C. Meeting
- 10TH MAY – Grand Designs & Posh Puds
- 13TH MAY – Evergreen Club Outing
- 13TH MAY – Whist Drive
- 20TH MAY – W.I.
- 23RD MAY – Village Market
- 29TH MAY - Bingo

ADVANCE NOTICES

- 11TH JUNE- New Mills Farm walk with Adrian Harvey
- 15TH JUNE- Open gardens at Uplands
- 27TH JUNE – Halfway Community Theatre
- 4TH JULY- Summer Pudding evening

Grand Designs – Posh Puds

Come and 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.

There will be punch on arrival and afterwards you can try as many puds and desserts as your little tum can manage! Bring your own drink.

SATURDAY, 10TH 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!

Evergreen Club

The sun shone on us in Tewkesbury for the morning of our first outing of the year. The afternoon in the Cotswolds, with Mary Badger, was as great a success as it was last year and very much enjoyed by everyone. On **TUESDAY 13TH MAY** we shall be going to Hungerford, arriving in time to browse in the antique shops or stroll along the Kennett and Avon canal. There is a handy café and a choice of places for lunch. In the afternoon we have a trip on a canal boat with tea. The cost is £15 for members and £17 for visitors. This includes the boat fare and tea. The number to ring is **01981 540932**. 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

Whist Drive

We are holding a Whist Drive at Little Birch Village Hall on **TUESDAY 13TH MAY**. We shall start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee will be £1.50. There are excellent prizes and refreshments will be available. New players are always welcome.

W.I.

The Open meeting in April was a great success. Ellie Targett gave a very interesting talk.

The meeting on **TUESDAY 20TH MAY** is a Resolutions meeting which is for members only.

Bingo

This will be at Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY 29TH MAY**. Eyes down at 8.00pm. There are good prizes and refreshments will be available.

Halfway Community Theatre

On **FRIDAY 27TH JUNE** at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall, we proudly present our 'SUMMER SIZZLER'!!!

Join us for an evening of music and drama, including a welcome return to the folk group 'Compost Heap'.

Tickets are £6.00 from Jenny Wrigley on **01981 540617**.

(Strawberries and sparkling wine are included).

Local News

A warm welcome is extended to MANDY and STEPHEN NAYLOR who have moved into Prospect Cottage together with their dog, 'Meg'. We hope they will be very happy in their new home. Congratulations are sent to ELAINE and DAN LANE, who have moved to Lea, on the birth of Alice May who weighed in at 8lb.

A very warm welcome is also given to PATSY and ANDREW COLLINSON who are preparing to move into Model Cottage, Little Birch with their 3 children, Holley, Iona and Aidan. We hope they will be very happy in the community.

It is good to report that FRANK SHORT is feeling much better and now at home after his stay in Gloucester Hospital.

We are sorry to hear of the death of MR. FRANK COOKE of Little Birch at the Weir Nursing Home at the age of 90. Frank was born at Snowdell, Holme Lacy, the home of his mother's sister. He never saw his father who was killed in Belgium in Sept. 1917 a few months after he was born. This left his mother in great distress as she could no longer manage their smallholding in Little Birch and so she moved in with her parents at a cottage at Ramsden, Upper Bogmarsh. At the age of four, Frank started school at Holme Lacy and with the late Dulcie Morgan (nee Ruck) who lived at Newtown, walked across the fields down to Holme Lacy and back again after school no matter what the weather. Two years later after his grandfather died his mother and grandmother moved to 'Sunnybank' in Parish Lane, Little Birch. This stood on the site now occupied by 'Willowside'. This enabled him to attend Much Birch School where he stayed until he was fourteen. He was very good at drawing and painting and won a 1st and 2nd prize at a Much Birch Flower Show. From the play area of the 'Old School', the children could see and hear what was coming along the main road and there was great excitement whenever a car or lorry approached. The junction at the top of Tump Lane was much more abrupt and vision very limited so that accidents between cars, horse drawn vehicles, motor bikes and pedal bikes happened quite frequently - nothing changes. Frank's dog 'Ben', always followed him to school

and sat outside and waited to walk home at lunchtime.

In those days water was a precious resource and while a rainwater tank for washing was helpful all drinking water had to be carried twice a day from the local wells and Wrigglebrook Pitch seemed very steep when carrying two buckets of water.

On his 14th. birthday in 1931, Frank saw the teacher, Mrs. Jones at 9am. and told her he had found a job. She wished him well and off he went to the Guy's Hospital Estate Yard at the bottom of the Thorn and started work at 9.30am. His first job was at Twyford where a cottage chimney was being rebuilt and he assisted the late Charles Gwynne (Roy's father). He worked for Guy's Hospital for some 12 years, mainly on building maintenance and learned a good deal about bricklaying and stonework especially from the late Frank Verry and in due time became a skilled craftsman himself.

In those days Guys Hospital Estate covered some 10,000 acres across most of South Herefordshire from Vowchurch to Ross in the south and Lyde to the north. Travelling to these farms was by bicycle for which an allowance of one shilling per week (10p) on top of the ten shillings (50p) wage (a total of 55p per five-and-a-half days' work in present monetary denominations). The employees had to be at their place of work by 7.30am. A number of amusing incidents occurred over that period including one at Stretton Sugwas, where there were three interconnecting fishponds. There was a leak in the stonework of one of the ponds requiring the water to be drained to effect the repair. Frank was working with Frank Verry and when the pond was almost empty, the latter picked up five or six large fish and secreted them in his 'poachers pocket'. Almost immediately, the farmer appeared to see how the work was progressing and then the fish started jumping in the poachers pocket. Frank Verry started jumping up and down too and the farmer asked Frank Cooke if there was anything the matter with him. This went on for some minutes finally the farmer walked away muttering that Frank Verry ought to visit the doctor!

On another occasion the two of them were racing each other home from Llangarron. Unfortunately their bikes got too close and the pedal of his mate's cycle became entangled in the spokes of his rear wheel. This resulted in him having to wheel his cycle, with the rear wheel off, all the way back to Carslake's Garage at Much Birch for repairs.

On Saturday August 4th. 1937, Frank was due to be best man at Frank Short and

Daisy Cooke's wedding. He worked up until noon at Whitecross Farm, Bridstow, cycled home to Little Birch, had a wash and change and met up with Frank at Sunnybank to walk to Little Birch Church. He sang in the choir at Little Birch Church for many years with the three brothers and three sisters Bowen from Church Farm. They enjoyed summer outings to Barry, Bristol and Bath and the Forest of Dean under the leadership of the then curate, Rev. Ind.

In the 1930's, the rifle club at Kings Thorn was very strong and Frank with David Dyke, Vic Symonds, Raymond Gwynne and others won the Hereford League on at least two occasions and he still had the medals that were awarded. These small bore target competitions took place mainly in the winter evenings which meant that they had to race home from work, have their meal and a wash and then catch a bus if they were playing away. The matches took them all over the area from Ross to Wellington. On the way home, Frank would play the mouth-organ to lead the singing which only stopped when the instrument became blocked with crisps!

They had a one-valve radio in the family cottage and, in 1939, they heard Chamberlain telling them that war had been declared with Germany. He joined the Home Guard in 1940 and uniforms were issued in 1941. Training took place during the evenings and at week ends and there was a look out point in the field opposite Lower House at the far end of Barrack Hill from where the Munitions Factory at Rotherwas and the city could be observed. The Home Guard also guarded important road junctions and carried out vehicle checks. In 1942, Frank joined the Royal Artillery and after training at Paignton, was posted to Plymouth to man six inch guns which were guarding the harbour and which suffered continued German air attacks. Later that year, he was posted to Whitby where again there were two large guns overlooking the sea. These were housed in the camouflaged Ladies and Gents toilets. Every morning, the soldiers had to run up 101 steps near the Abbey where an officer would hand out breakfast chits. Then they had to run back down and into the town to get their meal.

In 1943, he joined the mountain Artillery Battery at Edinburgh and later the unit moved to Dingwall for training where he qualified as a radio signaler. The guns and all equipment were carried by mules. It was bitterly cold weather in the Scottish mountains and it was no fun trying to control the stubborn mules. Later he trained to be a radar operator and was based at Ravenscarr on the East Yorkshire

coast, overlooking the North Sea. This was in the early days of radar and each unit could only sweep 10 miles in each direction so that there were similar units every 20 miles along the coast. The unit had to track the paths of both British and German planes and also shipping through the minefields in the North Sea. On one summer evening, Frank picked up what appeared to be a large stationary vessel in the North Sea and radioed an alert to the Admiralty in Newcastle. He then went outside with his binoculars and found that the radar was picking up a very large flock of seagulls resting on the sea. He radioed Newcastle again just in time to prevent the 'Invasion Alert' being put into operation. A German bomber was gunned down and crashed below the cliffs where he was based and, after Canadian specialists took whatever equipment they wanted, Frank and his colleagues climbed down and took the leftover radio equipment which was somehow fixed to play Victor Sylvester records for the dances at Staintondale three or four miles away which were attended by the soldiers and farmers' daughters from the surrounding areas. The quickest route for the soldiers was by 'sleeper walking' down the railway track and the girls came on horseback over the moors.

He used the metal they hacked off the plane to make model aircraft which were so good that the different fighters and bombers were instantly recognisable. They have stood proudly on the sideboard at his home ever since.

Due to a shortage of Grade 1 fit men, women were trained to operate the radar and Frank returned to his Artillery Battery. Early in 1945, the unit was posted to India. They sailed on a converted Polish cruise liner from Glasgow down to the English channel, through the Mediterranean and Suez Canal into the Indian Ocean and disembarked at Bombay. Whenever long distance swimming cropped up in conversation, Frank would always say that he swam the furthest, in fact all the way to India. This was partly true as there was a swimming pool on the ship in which he swam every day.

The unit was based near Hyderabad and trained in the mountains, using mules to carry the guns and equipment. Frank used to say that the gun carriage wheels would be roped over the mule, one each side with the breach and barrel on their backs. This was terribly heavy and the mules often lost their footing and rolled down the mountainside. Undeterred, they would shake off the dust and start off up the mountain again.

Weekend leave was spent by going to Bombay by train. Young boys would jump on the train as it was pulling into the station and if one wore spectacles and leaned out of the window, they would be whipped off and the boys were gone before the spectacles could be recovered. Troops were billeted in open ended thatched structures. One day he found a monkey sitting on his bed looking in his shaving mirror. The monkey kept looking behind the mirror to see where the other monkey was.

Meals were served in mess tins which had to be collected from the cook house but walking back to the billet could be hazardous as hawks would swoop over your shoulders and whip the food out of the tins. Biscuits were also part of the rations but they were often infested with weevils.

He returned home in September 1946 having disembarked in Liverpool and been demobilised in York. He married Vera at Monkseaton, Whitley Bay on 5th April 1947. They came to live in Sunnybank Cottage with Frank's mother and then moved into Shirley Cottage in January 1948 when they began to improve the property as there were no facilities in any shape or form.

He started work for Chivers, the builders, at the Rotherwas factory and bought a Royal Enfield motor cycle in 1950 to help him get to work in varying locations in Hereford. Vera also added to their income by going to pick fruit and hops. She also kept poultry and helped him build up a very productive garden. He worked on various churches in the neighbourhood and recalled the scariest moments when working on the tower of St. Davids, Much Dewchurch, when wooden ladders were roped together to get to the right height and they swayed violently in the wind. No Health and Safety then!!

He also helped build the chapel at Credenhill Camp, extended the rear of the building at Carvers Solicitors and worked on the MEB showroom in Widemarsh Street, the council estate at Mordiford, the houses on Redhill, the council estate in Tump Lane and the strong room at the SAS camp Bradbury Lines (later renamed Stirling Lines). He was a skilled bricklayer and mason and was always given the tricky jobs, such as building the bay windows and chimneys.

Most of the social life of the village centred around the school, church and the Memorial Hall at Kings Thorn, where dances and whist drives were held each week. Fund raising events were also held to raise cash for a village hall in Little Birch. When the hall was opened in 1951, Frank and Vera spent many happy hours

there. He sat in the entrance with others to take the entry money for the Saturday night dances, which were so popular, that, each week, coach loads of people came from Hereford and Credenhill Camp.

He had always been keen on Football and Boxing and on 17th May 1955, got up at 2.45am to listen to the Don Cockell and Rocky Marciano world heavy weight title fight.

Vera and Frank bought Shirley Cottage from Jack and Sid Watkins in July 1956. Further improvements were made to the cottage and water was only connected after Frank laid an alkathene pipe in the 60 yard long trench he had dug from 'The Glen'. In July 1967 his mother suffered a severe stroke and died in Hospital shortly afterwards.

After he passed his driving test, he took over a Morris 8 from his step-father, Mr. Boneham. Vera and he enjoyed several holidays, even travelling up to Newcastle, which took all day, as there were no motorways at that time. In 1968, he bought a Riley Kestrel from H.A.Saunders trading in his old Viva, which had always suffered many problems. He took his niece, Joan and her husband Ken down to see the new Severn Bridge and finished up on the motorway. Undaunted they sped over the bridge and Frank decided to show his visitors how fast the Riley would go, eventually reaching in excess of 100mph, frightening himself as well as his visitors in the process.

Vera and Frank left Shirley Cottage in 1983 to move into 'Daneswood' with Vera's mother, Mrs. Herring, because she was getting very frail. She died in May 1988, and had given Frank and Vera a pretty hard time as they only had one room in which to live.

They were now able to live a more normal life, to get out and about and enjoy life a bit better. The Riley was taken in part exchange for a Ford Fiesta Ghia.

They were very friendly with Miss Lawrence their next door neighbour and joined the Evergreen Club at L.B.Hall and the Red Cross Over 60's Club which met at Park Hall. Both clubs organised outings and thrived for many years. Vera's health gradually declined in the late 1990's and she sadly passed away in 1999 which left Frank utterly devastated as he had done everything for her and nursed her for a long period. However, he was very determined and with the help of Joyce and Roger Allsebrook and a number of friends in the village, he managed to keep going very well. His cousin, Dorothy, from Little Dewchurch also visited regularly. He bought a new Toyota Yaris and did his shopping and attended the Evergreen and Pop-In Clubs as well as keeping up his

garden. Joan and Ken came down from Prudhoe, near Newcastle as often as they could and took him for days out around the county. In 2006, Frank suffered an aneurysm which caused him to become fragile. He celebrated his 90th birthday on 7th July 2007 with a party at home organised by Joan.

In November, his health began to deteriorate and he struggled to get through the winter, eventually going into hospital in March and then to The Weir Nursing Home where he died peacefully at on 13th April. His funeral service was held in Little Birch Church on 25th April and was followed by internment in Vera's grave at Much Birch. He will be very sadly missed. Thanks are expressed to the doctors and nurses from Much Birch Surgery for their care whilst he was at home.

At the time of writing, MRS. MACLEOD of Tump Lane has just passed away and more will appear next month.

Footpaths Officer

There is a vacancy for a Footpaths Officer for Much Birch Parish. Parish Councils appoint Footpaths Officers who work directly to the relevant Herefordshire Council Footpaths Warden and copy information to the Parish Council. The post is voluntary.

Job Description

The Parish Footpaths Officer needs to walk the Parish footpaths regularly to ensure they are kept clear. He/she is a representative of Herefordshire Council and should be diplomatic and unbiased at all times. The essence of the job is co-operation. The Parish Footpaths officer will be directly responsible to the Herefordshire Council's Area Warden. The Parish Council are to be kept informed of footpath matters by way of a written report to The Parish Council and attendance at Parish Council meetings.

For more information and also if you would like to apply for the position in this voluntary role please write or telephone:

Mrs. Kath Greenow, *Much Birch Parish Clerk*, Hackford House, Dinedor, Hereford HR2 6PD. 01432 870874. Please note: The closing date for applications is **Friday 23rd May 2008**.

M.B. Community Hall

The ongoing upgrading of Much Birch Community Hall has benefitted from the installation of a new central heating boiler which will improve the warmth of the building in a more efficient and economic way and which replaced the problematic 30 year old boiler. The opportunity was also taken at the same time to upgrade the

insulation of the building and to carryout redecoration works.

These benefits to all user groups were mainly achieved after securing a grant from the 'Welcome to our Future', an organisation dedicated to sustainable developments. The Organisation manages the Severn Waste Environmental Fund in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The necessary 'topping up' monies were obtained by a range of local fund raising activities organised by the Hall Management Committee.

Very grateful thanks go to the 'Welcome to our Future' Organisation, and to Glen Simms and Dave Jones who carried out the enabling building and electrical work.

Catering Course

12 people attended the 'Food Safety in Catering Course' which was held in Much Birch Community Hall recently. Congratulations to them all on obtaining the Level 2 Award. The course concentrated on the first principles of good practice, covering the things needed to ensure that the food which is made and prepared, is safe to serve, sell, and is safe to eat. All the principles are based on scientific research, sound operational experience and legal requirements. Well done to all!

Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The **April** draw took place on Sunday, 13th April in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.00pm

The winners were:

1. No. 48 - Mrs P. Eggerton, Much Birch
2. No. 62 - Dr. J. Dinnen, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 10th May 2008 at 7.00pm at the Grand Designs and Posh Pudds event in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones, *Chairman/Promoter*

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. One group 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

Neighbourhood Watch

Overnight 29th February/1st March a large quantity of sheets of insulation was taken from premises being renovated at Broad Oak.

Overnight 5th & 6th March a dumper truck and an excavator were moved from a building site at Grafton Inn. They were abandoned half a mile away.

Between 10th and 11th March a cement mixer was taken from premises being renovated at the bottom of Barrack Hill.

Overnight 14th/15th March 600 litres of heating oil was taken from a storage tank at premises in Wormbridge.

During March, flowers on a grave at St Mary's Church, Little Birch have been removed and destroyed.

Between 22nd & 24th a farm building was attacked at Callow. A roof sheet was taken off and the building entered. A VW drop side vehicle and its load of slates was taken.

Overnight 23rd/24th damage was caused to a car in a driveway at Green lane and a window was smashed in premises near to Kingstone Church.

Overnight 24th/25th March two HGVs that were parked in lay-bys on the A465 at Wormbridge and Allensmore had diesel taken from their tanks.

During the daytime 25th March a bag of aluminium horseshoes was taken from premises at St Devereux.

Between 17th and 30th March heating oil was taken from premises at Garway Hill.

We are still experiencing thefts of heating oil from domestic and commercial premises. A house in a semi-isolated location in Kings Thorn had a large amount of oil taken, possibly between 1500 and 2000 litres, whilst the occupiers were on holiday last week.

Also, a building site in Madley suffered a similar loss, this time about 1000 litres. I know Madley is off our area, but it's worth being aware of incidents close by. Altogether in Herefordshire since 1st November 2007, over 70 fuel thefts have been reported, this includes theft from farms, industrial units, domestic premises, and vehicles.

There will undoubtedly have been many more thefts that have not been reported to us, so the figure could be much higher.

On 14th April, a gas meter was stolen from a wall in a new housing development in Kingstone.

Garden Crime

How to Nip it in the Bud
Garden crime is an unfortunate reality. Although many people take steps to protect their homes and the property inside

them, they leave valuable equipment in gardens and unsecured sheds, providing easy pickings for opportunist thieves.

Power tools, mowers, garden tools, mountain bikes and golf clubs are just some examples of expensive equipment left in sheds that are not strong or secure enough to protect them from thieves. To make matters worse, these stolen items could then be used by the intruder to break into your house.

Around 1000 shed burglaries take place every year within West Mercia, which highlights the importance of storing valuable items securely. Effective garden security covers everything from boundary fences and gates to the valuables stored inside your shed.

As part of our Safe & Secure campaign we've pulled together the following hints and tips to keep your garden - and therefore your home - secure.

Protecting Your Boundaries

The boundaries of your property are your first line of defence against burglars. Gates, fences and walls which are not kept in good repair could allow intruders to access the back and sides of your property.

Make sure that:

Rear garden fences are high enough to make climbing them difficult. A trellis can be used to add additional height

Side gates are positioned as close to the front of the house as possible. Thieves will be put off by the fact that they are in full view of the neighbours

Gates are kept locked at all times

Defensive Planting

'Defensive planting' is the term used to describe the way you can use certain prickly plants, bushes and shrubs to deter burglars.

Think about using it to protect vulnerable areas such as fences, windows, drainpipes and boundary walls. Berberis,

Pyracantha, Holly and Hawthorn are just a few examples of defensive planting. Ask for advice at your local garden centre.

This green-leaved security measure is not meant to replace, but to complement other security measures, such as lighting, locks and alarms.

Secure Your Shed!

Most garden sheds are not designed for safe storage and expensive items should not be stored in them.

However, if you have no alternative, there are steps you can take to maximise its security:

Keep your shed in good condition

Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door.

Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed

Fit grilles or mesh to the windows

Invest in an alarm

Household insurance policies

These should be checked to ensure they cover garden and shed equipment and whether or not any minimum standards of security apply.

Do you know a Good Citizen?

West Mercia Constabulary is keen to hear about public-spirited youngsters as it begins the search for the Good Citizens of 2008.

Teachers, group leaders and members of the public are being asked to nominate young people who have made outstanding contributions to their local communities.

Good Citizen Awards are presented to young people aged 18 or under, who have carried out acts of outstanding courage or generosity, or who have displayed immense community spirit over the last twelve months.

Nomination forms have been sent to head teachers at primary and high schools and to youth groups across the force area. They can also be downloaded from the West Mercia Constabulary website.

Your Officers based @ Peterchurch

Sgt Robin Davies

Email:

robin.davies@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Local Police Officer

PC Andrew Bundy

Mobile No: 07855 385 844

Email:

andrew.bundy@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Community Support Officers

CSO 6173 Fiona Witcher

Mobile No: 07779 141232

Email:

fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CSO 6993 Kevin Powell

Mobile No: 07779 141 232

Email:

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

Newsletter

In the good old days when we had a Village Shop and Post Office, there was a tin on the shop counter into which people would put their loose change or the odd £1 to help pay for its production. Other residents used to send donations – anything from £1 to £5. This is

not possible any more because the village shop is no longer in Kings Thorn and, quite naturally, the Post Office and Stores in Wormelow doesn't feel able to make this collection. So we have no money coming in. Everybody in the community of Much and Little Birch and Kings Thorn has a free copy of the Newsletter put through their letterbox at a cost of approximately 25p per copy or £2.75 per year. About thirty households now have it electronically, but that is a very small proportion of our readers. Has anybody a bright idea as to how we can recoup some of the outlay so that the Parish Councils are not out of pocket. Should we discontinue the hard copy and simply have it on the website?

This would, of course disenfranchise all those who do not have access to the internet, which, to my mind is unthinkable.

Let us know your views and ideas please. Email me or write so that we can publish your views and ideas.

Editor

Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **JUNE** 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 by

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18TH MAY

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