# King's Thorn & The Birches Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch & Much Birch - September 2007

#### Annual Horticultural Show

#### is on SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER.

There are competitions for flowers, fruit, vegetables, domestic entries, photography as well as a large children's section. The show is free to enter and new exhibitors are encouraged to enter any of the classes. Schedules for the show, complete with entry forms and rules, are available at Much Birch Doctors' Surgery, Pengethley Garden Centre, The Axe and Cleaver Pub, The Castle Inn and from the Show Secretary Mrs. Eryl Hughes tel 01981 541092.

Children wishing to enter the tallest sunflower should contact the Show Secretary before Friday 31st August to have their sunflower measured.

On Thursday 30th August a Children's' workshop will be held in Little Birch Village Hall between 2pm and 4pm where children aged up to 13 on the day of the Show can make vegetable monsters, gardens on a plate and prepare pictures and flower arrangements for competition.

On SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER the hall will be open to receive entries between 9.00am. and 11.00am. and then will be re-opened at 2.00pm. for visitors to view the entries and winners. During the course of the afternoon refreshments will be on sale. To round off the afternoon there will be a produce auction and presentation of the cups to the winners.

Anyone wishing for further show information can contact The Show Secretary, Mrs. Eryl Hughes, on 01981 541092 or the Chairman, John Bryant, on 01981 540316.

The next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY  $26^{TH}$  SEPTEMBER subject: Plants that we should grow more often by D.G. Everitt.

#### Ploughing Match

#### On **SATURDAY** 8<sup>TH</sup> **SEPTEMBER**

Llanwarne Agricultural Society is running its 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Ploughing Match at Llanwarne Court (by kind permission of A.J. and L.E. Williams). There will be sheep dog trials, Horticultural, Fruit, Floral, Domestic and Handicraft Classes. Secretaries: Ploughing & Sheep Dogs - N Norris 01989 768320 and Ladies - Mrs. P. Bevan - 01989 730237.

#### **DIARY DATES SEPTEMBER 2007**

1ST SEPTEMBER - Kings Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club Annual Show

8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Llanwarne 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Ploughing Match

9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Dog Show

11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Evergreen Club Outing 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – L.B. Whist Drive

13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – PACT Meeting

14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – WYE WOODS PROJECT

18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – W.I.

20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - Walking for Health

21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER – Pantomime Meeting

22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER – Flicks in the Sticks

26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Gardening Club

27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Little Birch Bingo

28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – Market

#### ADVANCE NOTICES

6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Halloween party

9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Evergreen Club Outing to Charlecote Park

11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Film 'An Inconvenient Truth'

13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Flu Clinic

16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – W.I.

20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – Flu Clinic

#### Dog Show

#### SATURDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER -

further information available from Robyn Hodges on 540264 and Jackie on 541027.

#### Evergreen Club

If you would like to go on our trip to Bewdley Riverside Town on TUESDAY  $11^{TH}$ **SEPTEMBER,** Ring Beverley on 540406 or Bridget on 540932.

The deadline for bookings is Saturday 1st September

The weather is improving and we hope that the change will keep going until we take this trip. There are riverside walks, the Silver Jubilee Gardens and a small museum demonstrating rope and clay pipe making. The Severn Valley Railway will be running from Bewdley to Kidderminster if you wish to partake of a nostalgic trip powered by a steam train - you know the ones which filled your eyes with sooty particles if you leaned out of the window after having been told not to do so!

There are plenty of places to eat lunch and our journey will be to the north hence the differing pick-ups from usual

Pick up times as follows:

8.55 Merton Hotel

9.00 Fonteine Court

9.10 Peterstow (Broome Farm)

9.15 Axe & Cleaver

9.20 M.B. Church Bus Stop

9.25 Tump Lane (Bungalows)

9.30 The Park, Wormelo w

9.35 Tump Lane (Middle)

9.40 Convent Bus Stop

9.45 Kings Thorn B.S.

9.50 Brandon Coach Depot

Fares will be £7 (Members) and £9 (Non-Members). Don't forget the final trip on TUESDAY 9TH

OCTOBER to Charlecote Park (N.T.) - more in the next magazine.

#### Whist Drive

at Little Birch Village Hall on TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, refreshments and excellent prizes, 7.30pm start, entrance fee £1.50, new players welcome.

#### We are listening!

If you have attended a Parish Council or PACT meeting recently, you may have heard some of the ideas about speed enforcement for example, being discussed. We always aim to include outcomes from the meeting in our work and will discuss any ideas put forward. The next PACT meeting will be held at 7.00pm. on THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER at Golden Valley Community Centre, Peterchurch.

# WYE WOODS PROJECT OPEN DAY FRIDAY $14^{TH}$ SEPTEMBER 12:00-2:00 pm

Aconbury Coppice Group will welcome the public to see what we do.

Charcoal/Besoms/etc for sale

Free BBQ lunch

**Contact**: Kate Lawes 07813966769 Or Maurice Clother 07813598343

Please phone to let us know if you would like to come - for BBQ numbers

#### *W.I.*

Members of Much Birch WI have enjoyed many and varied evening meetings when speakers have both imparted their knowledge and entertained us. Looking ahead, on TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, Mrs. Janet Griffiths is entertaining us with 'The Alternative Fat Ladies on Flower Arranging' and on TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER one of our members, Mrs. Ann Evans, is telling us about 'Our Trip to New Zealand via The Canyons of America'.

If you would like to know more about Much Birch WI please contact Mrs. Barbara Wilson (President) 01432 840559 or Kath Watts 01981 540382

#### Visitors are always welcome.

Meetings are held in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.30pm.

#### The Wye Wood Project

and "Walking for Health" present, Free of Charge a weekly programme of walks for all abilities.

We have arranged one-hour easy to moderate weekly walks in Aconbury Woods starting on **THURSDAY 20**<sup>TH</sup> **SEPTEMBER**, meeting at 10.30am. at Little Birch Village Hall Car Park and

An 'Access for All' wheelchair friendly walking group in Newton Coppice, Belmont which will take place fortnightly on Fridays at 10.45am. and will last about 40 minutes.

This will be a chance to explore your local countryside with guided help from qualified 'Walking for Health' leaders. It will also be a chance to meet regularly with familiar faces and to build enjoyable, easy exercise into your week.

For more information please call Kate Lawes at the Wye Wood Project on 01544 232707 or Mob. 07813 966769 or email <a href="mailto:katelawes@smallwoods.org.uk">katelawes@smallwoods.org.uk</a>

# Little Birch Pantomime 2008 "Snow White"

The preliminary meeting will take place on **FRIDAY 21**<sup>st</sup> **SEPTEMBER** at 7.00pm in Little Birch Village Hall. Please come and join in the fun and help us get this off to a good start. Old and new members, children, stage and costume helpers are all very welcome.

Hilary Gould

#### Flicks In The Sticks

in association with Arts Alive

Flicks in the Sticks returns on SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER, this month at Much Birch Community Hall, with NOTES ON A SCANDAL15 starring Dame Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett.

When Sheba Hart (Blanchett) joins St. George's as the new art teacher, Barbara (Dench) senses a kindred spirit. But Barbara is not the only one drawn to her. Sheba begins an illicit affair and Barbara becomes the keeper of her secret. "Notes on a Scandal" is a story of loneliness, loyalty, envy and love.

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

#### Bingo

Will be at Little Birch Village Hall on **THURSDAY 27**<sup>TH</sup> **SEPTEMBER**. Eyes down at 8.00pm excellent prizes, refreshments available.

#### Spooky Night

On SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER we are holding a Spooky Night with a Spicy Spud Supper for all the family to enjoy at Little Birch Village Hall. There will be fun and games for all, Fancy Dress competitions for adults and children with prizes for the best costumes.

Refreshments available, 7.00pm until 11.00pm, entrance fee £4.00 per adult and £2.00 per child (up to age 14). Come and join in the fun.

#### 'Flu Clinics - MB Surgery

We will be holding our annual flu clinics at Much Birch Community Hall on

- **SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** from 09:00 11:00, and
- **SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** from 09:00 11:00

These clinics are for all Much Birch Surgery patients who are over 65 years of age or are at risk from influenza (including patients with asthma and chronic breathing problems, diabetes, heart or kidney disease or impaired immune systems). You will receive an invitation which you should

bring with you to the flu clinic (as it contains your unique reference).

If you are a carer, please make sure that you have completed a carer form and return it to the surgery, so that we can send you an invitation.

#### Advance notice

The award winning film 'An Inconvenient Truth' will be showing at Little Birch Village Hall on THURSDAY 11th October more information in the next newsletter.

#### Local News

The late arrival of ELIZABETH JANE caused the congratulations to Helen Fox and Richard to be delayed until now but it is good to report that Elizabeth who weighed in at over ten pounds is thriving and proving to be the centre of attraction for the whole family. On the other hand the premature arrival of Seth to Zoe Mortiford and Joey caused a good deal of anxiety as he weighed in at just a few pounds but he proved to be a real fighter and with the skill of the staff at Birmingham Hospital has made good progress and is now at home. This is good news for a change and congratulations are extended to both families.

In July, Mrs. Peggy Newman of Much Birch celebrated her 90th birthday with friends and family enjoying a warm sunny day in her beautiful garden. We send her our belated congratulations and best wishes.

Mrs Peggy Lyke of "Birchfield" Holly Bush Lane returned home on the 9th August after her operation in Birmingham hospital and recuperation in the Ross Cottage Hospital. She is doing well and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Frank Short's Grandson, Matthew Short, has just become a Sub-Lieutenant in the RNVR (HMS President). After leaving Manchester University he joined the Civil Service.

Congratulations to Grandparents: Les Jenkins of Counties View, Much Birch and Dick and Gillian Brimacombe of Holly Bush House, Holly Bush Lane, Much Birch, who have recently been blessed with Granddaughters.

Our heartiest congratulations are extended to Rebecca Allsebrook who has just gained 3A's and 2B's in her A-level exams. and has been accepted at Swansea University. Well done! Rebecca.

Please MAY we have news of any other successes and aspirations.

This month we have to say goodbye to several friends in the community and welcome their successors.

Mr. 'Steve' Stephens has already moved to Cirencester to be nearer his family. He

has coped very well since the death of his wife, Margaret but he felt that as Anno Domini was catching up fast he ought to make the move at this time. Steve and Margaret were very active in the parish for the whole time that they lived here and we send to Steve our very best wishes and hope he will be very happy in his new home.MR. BOHDAN BUCIAK and his wife, DELIA NEWELL, have moved into Applewick and we hope they will be very happy there.

The same remarks also apply to MRS. NAN RAPER who is now in her 90's and is moving to Cornwall to be near her family. She has been a charming but very unassuming good neighbour and both she and Selina, the cat, will be sadly missed. She leaves a wonderful garden that she has created over the last 20 years to her successors, who will be KATH and DEREK NASH and we hope they will soon feel at home in the community.

Sadly but peacefully, with her nieces and their families by her bedside, POLLY PERKINS passed away at the County Hospital on 4th. August. Polly was christened Gertrude Mary and was known to her family as 'Gert' but to most of her friends and colleagues as 'Polly'. She was born on what is now the Belmont Roundabout but in 1917, this was the Abergavenny and Ross Road intersection and next door to where the Ship Inn now stands, there was a small farm and several dwellings. She attended St. Martins school and was a scholar at the Church Sunday School just a few hundred yards up the road. She remembered that as a young child with her mother, she often had to be ferried by boat to get into Hereford along St. Martins Street up to the 'Old Bridge' due to the floods. She first worked at a nearby sweet shop and later at the local Post Office, when the sweet shop owner took over the business. So began an association with the Post Office which lasted for some 45 years and where friendships were forged which have lasted right up to her passing. Polly said that she met Ivor at the May Fair in Hereford in the late 1930's but it looked as though an early wedding was out of the question as Ivor was called up into the Army in 1939. However, he wangled a few days leave in 1940 and they were married by special licence at St. Martins Church. They spent the rest of WW11 apart but moved to The Glen, Little Birch in 1947 together with Polly's sister and her family. Polly continued working for the Post Office in Hereford but transferred to the Ross Office some years later where she stayed until her retirement in the late 1970's. Ivor, meanwhile, worked for British Rail but also transferred to the Post Office at

Ross. Polly and Ivor created a very good garden at the Glen growing vegetables, fruit and flowers and they shared this common interest until they moved to Withycombe in 1993. Polly had many cats both of her own and others who adopted her, but she loved them all. She was a member of the W.I., the Evergreen Club where she liked nothing better than dressing up and singing in the concerts arranged by the Club. (She appears in the photograph of the Evergreen Concert Party in the book 'Little Birch on Aconbury Hill'.) Although not having any family of her own, she thoroughly enjoyed playing with her great niece and nephews and had a wicked sense of humour in playing practical jokes on them. Sadly, Ivor died in 1996 but Polly was determined to continue living Withycombe and with the help of Ian, who took her shopping once a week and Eileen Lewis who took both Polly and Elizabeth Dyke to the Axe and Cleaver for several lunches each week and to the 'Pop In' Club and with visits from Nancy and her family, she led a fairly hectic life, including keeping the garden in good stead. Later, Ivor Crum helped her with lawn mowing and hedging and as she became more frail in 2003, Iris Lloyd and Diane Smith cared for her at home. About 3 years ago, she became more frail and moved into Holmer Court Retirement Home where again she received excellent care. She contracted a chest infection from 23rd. July and suffered a stroke about a week later and passed away in hospital. A Service of Thanksgiving for her Life was conducted by Rev. Kay Garlick at Little Birch Church on Monday 13th August at which her niece Nancy gave the address. Donations were given for St. Michael's Hospice and her body was laid to rest next to that of Ivor in the grounds of the crematorium. She will be sadly missed by all the family and many, many friends.

The death of MR. CLIFF LANGFORD of Cold Nose Farm, Callow, at the age of 79 years, has just occurred and we send our sincere condolences to his son, Michael and daughter, Elizabeth. Cliff's family came from Wellington and he and his wife, Edith, have farmed at Coldnose for almost 40 years. Cliff has not been well for about 3 years and has been attending the Royal Marsden Hospital taking part in a new drug trial. He would often be picked up at 5.30am., travel to London, book in. have breakfast and then treatment or blood samples taken and then be brought home by teatime and this was repeated twice a week on many occasions. The sudden death of Edith just over a year ago was a severe blow but he continued with the sheep with Michael's help. He went into

the hospice a few weeks ago but had set his heart on judging the sheep classes at the Royal Welsh Show one more time, having done this for many years. This he achieved with the help of friends and it seems that once this was accomplished, he felt he had done enough. His funeral service will take place at Wellington and his body will be interred at Dewsall.

Cliff was extremely kind to Little Birch in that he freely gave permission for car parking on fields adjacent to the Village Hall and on one occasion members of the North Leeds Orchestra camped the whole week end and he had to move cattle so that this was possible.

He will be sadly missed by his family and a very wide circle of friends.

The whole community is in shock after hearing of the untimely death of PETER GROOM of Much Birch. A full tribute will appear next month but meanwhile we send our deepest sympathies to his wife, Jean.

#### Red Warning Triangle

A storm at the beginning of July left the top of our Willow tree hanging over the road near the corner of Barrack Hill and Little Birch Road As it was potentially a danger for pedestrians and motorists, we put our warning triangle directly under it while we tried to find a tree surgeon to move the branch.

Within two hours the triangle had been removed and we can only assume that someone thought it had been left behind by mistake and removed it for safety. If you have any knowledge of its whereabouts, please telephone Jill Handley on 01981 540142

#### Much Birch 100 Club Draw

The **July** draw took place on Thursday, 5th July in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.45pm

The winners were:

1. No. 53

Mrs. Margaret Newman, Much Birch

2. No. 30

Mr. & Mrs. D. Pennington, Much Birch The **August** draw took place on Wednesday, 15th August in Much Birch Community Hall at 7.00pm

The winners were:

1. No. 95

Mr. J.B. Willis, Much Birch

2. No. 97

Mr. & Mrs. C. Dymott, Kings Thorn The next draw will take place on Thursday, 6th September at 7.45pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones, Chairman/Promoter

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

#### Get rid of your Household Rubbish!

Little Birch Parish Council has organised a Parish Freighter to be parked outside Little Birch Village Hall on Saturday 27th October from 2.00p m.-4.00pm. The driver of the freighter will receive items of household waste from the residents of the parish. Exceptions are commercial or industrial waste, liquids, builders waste and special, hazardous or dangerous waste i.e. asbestos, gas cylinders etc.

#### M.B. Parish Council

**Planning** 

Permissions Granted HDC

**Much Birch Primary School** – Parent waiting shelter/cycle shelter.

**Birch House** – Replacement of two windows on ground floor.

**St Gabriel's Cottage** – Single storey extension to rear and detached double garage.

Planning Refusal by HDC

**Sandridge** – Barrack Hill – New dwelling in garden.

Application supported by the Parish Council

**The Old Cedars** – To erect a conservatory to the rear of the property. 'SID' (Speed Indicator Device)

Six sites around the parish have been approved by Herefordshire Council and the Parish Council is waiting for Police approval, prior to installing a movable

#### Parish Lengthsman

SID.

The Parish Lengthsman has been busy clearing out the ditches on Barrack Hill, as well as roadside weed-killing in Tump Lane and from the school to Kings Thorn. If you know of an area that could be improved by the Lengthsman, please contact the Clerk.

#### Parish Clerk

A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Parish Clerk for MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL.

If you are interested, please ring Mr. John Jones. 01981 540980, who will be pleased to let you have full details of duties, hours involved and any further information you may require.

#### Neighbourhood Watch

Stolen Vehicles

Stolen overnight 3/4th June from **Garway**, a Land Rover 110 M reg.

Between 18<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2 children's motor cycles were taken from a premises at **St Weonards**.

#### **Burglaries**

Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June a shed was broken into at **St Weonards** and strimmer stolen.

Daytime 14<sup>th</sup> June a garage at **Kingsthorne** was broken into and a lawnmower, a strimmer and a chainsaw were taken.

Between 18<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> June power tools were taken from a shed in **Garway**.

Between 23-00hrs 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 01.20hrs 23<sup>rd</sup> June a house at **Wormbridge** was entered and items of food taken.

#### **Burglary Dwellings**

Please be aware of bogus callers in your area and report anything suspicious immediately.

#### Thefts

Stolen overnight 3<sup>d</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> June from **Orcop**, an Ifor Williams trailer, possibly linked to theft of the Land Rover.

Theft of strawberries from **Harewood End** 8<sup>th</sup> June, offenders using a yellow Transit sized van J reg.

Between 11<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> June a picnic bench was taken from **St Weonards School.** 

On 21st June a small car trailer was taken from a field at **Grafton.** 

Between  $12^{th}$  June and  $23^{rd}$  June a Rice horsebox was stolen from a barn at **Kilpeck** .

Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July offenders have taken wheels from cars parked on forecourt of garages at **Callow**.

Between 29<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July offenders have taken 450 litres of diesel from premises at **Broad Oak.** 

Overnight 16/17<sup>th</sup> July offenders gained entry to a building at **Wormelow** and stole chainsaw, hedge trimmer and other tools.

Overnight 17/18<sup>th</sup> July a white statue of St John approximately 4' tall was taken from a premises at **Much Birch**.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July offenders gained entry to a building at **Garway** and stole a chain saw and a strimmer.

#### Help Us Scrap The Metal Thieves

West Mercia Constabulary launches Project Livewire to tackle an increasing number of metal thefts in the Force area.

A NEW PROJECT aimed at stamping out metal thefts across the region has been launched by the police. Project Livewire has been set up in response to a rising number of thefts – and the public can play a large role in the fight against this type of crime.

A significant increase in global demand for non-ferrous metals has been reflected in significant increases in price and scrap values. This has led to an increase in the number of thefts and criminals are targeting building sites, farms, churches, schools, HGVs and a variety of other sources to steal metal such as copper, aluminium and steel. It ems such as pipes, road drain covers and even road signs are being taken.In the West Mercia area there were 413 metal theft offences during 2006/07, almost 60 per cent up on the previous year. The value of materials stolen amounted to more than a million pounds.

Police are working to improve the flow of information between partners such as local authorities and the Environment Agency to establish patterns of crime and what can be done to prevent and detect offences. Part of Project Livewire involves officers visiting scrap metal dealers to inspect their books and encourage their business to become licensed. Stop checks will be carried out on vehicles transporting metal and police officers will be checking drivers for the correct documentation.

Acting Detective Inspector Mark Stringer, from West Mercia Constabulary's Force Intelligence Bureau, said: "Metal thefts only account for about one per cent of total crime for the force, however it is a problem which is on the rise. A large theft from a company's pre mises could put them out of business and mean the loss of jobs and livelihoods.

"We want the public to call us with information if they see metal being stolen or have information about someone trying to sell metal in suspicious circumstances.

"This is not only a problem in the West Mercia area but across the country. Some of the larger thefts are carried out by organised criminal groups operating at a national level, although we have recorded a number of opportunistic crimes

"We are determined to arrest and prosecute offenders who handle stolen metal and those who appear before the courts can also expect to have their assets seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act."

#### Fly Tipping

One of the issues raised at last month's Golden Valley Community PACT Forum was the increase in fly tipping in many areas. If items are 'dumped' on the side of the road or any other area owned by the local authority, this should be reported directly to Herefordshire Council on 01432 260000. They will remove the items and they will also be responsible for any prosecutions. If items are left on private land, it is the responsibility of the landowner to remove such items at his/her own expense. If you do experience any fly tipping on your land, the best way to deal with this is to identify the vehicle/s being used and pass on the registration number to the police. information can be found on the internet at www.crimereduction.gov.uk

#### Rogue Traders

We are still receiving reports of rogue traders operating in Herefordshire. These persons tend to prey on the elderly and cold call on their victims. They will offer to carry out work such as tarmacing of drives, roofing, guttering or work in the garden. They may well agree a price and then when the work has been completed claim that he cost is more. This maybe because they confused the customer as to how much the agreed price was. An example of this is prices for covering an area of a drive is quoted in square yards, but then finally priced in square feet.

There is legislation in place to stop this type of trading. If the trader cold calls and the cost of the work is over £35 the trader has to give a contract to the customer including his name and address. The contract also has to have cancellation rights on it. You have the right to cancel a contract within 7 days.

There may be other offences that a rogue trader commits.

The police do work in partnership with Trading Standards and if you think you or anyone else have been or are being ripped off please contact the police or Trading Standards immediately.

Trading Standards can if necessary advise you as to whether the work is priced reasonably. Trading standards can be contacted on

01432 261761.

#### New C SO for The Golden Valle

A welcome is extended to CSO Rosina Cathcart, who joined the Golden Valley Local Policing Team at Peterchurch Police Station at the end of June. She very recently got married, hence the different name on her email address. She and Dan will be sharing a mobile phone number, which is listed below.

#### Thank You!

Herefordshire Divisions commander, Chief Superintendent Mark Turner, has given a public Thank you to everyone who assisted in the emergency response to the flooding which hit the county and Golden valley area in July.

#### **Drinking** and **Driving**

If you have visited a local pub recently you may have noticed some of the new drink drive literature distributed by West Mercia Constabulary. We are again highlighting the dangers of drinking and driving and the subsequent penalties for doing so are severe.

Some people are often caught just over the limit and the excuse is that they only had a small amount to drink. Even when you have drunk a small amount, your chances of being in a collision increase. Even if you test yourself with a home breathalyser kit they can be inaccurate. It is best to avoid drinking altogether if you think you will be driving or follow the common sense advice on the new coasters!

- Book a taxi
- > Use public transport
- Nominate a group driver
- ➤ Walk home with friends

Please drink responsibly, don't ruin your life and someone else's

## "Data Link" - Emergency Information Scheme

#### What is Data Link?

Data Link is a voluntary scheme for anyone who needs reassurance should they suffer an accident or illness at home, it provides the emergency services with vital information.

#### How does the scheme work?

First you complete the emergency information form (enclosed in the pack supplied) which then contains valuable information such as blood type, existing medical problems, your doctors details, allergies and next of kin details etc. This form is then placed in clearly labelled plastic container (empty photographic film container size) and kept in the fridge. Two stickers are then displayed one on your fridge door and the other one at eye level on the INSIDE of your main door.

Where can I get the Package?

The scheme is sponsored by "npower" and is absolutely free, the Data link packages which contain everything you need are available from one of the local police officers or community support officers.

**Ps.** You may be wondering why keep the container in the fridge?

Its not because it needs to be kept fresh! It was thought by the organisers of the scheme that a fridge is a common place in every household and invariably accessible.

#### And now on a more serious note...

We are still catching people on mobile phones whilst driving and in some cases they are speeding at the same time. Just to reiterate, it is now an endorsable offence and when caught, drivers face three penalty points as well as a £60 fine. If you are speeding at the same time you could end up with six points. If you have been driving for <u>less than two years</u> and were caught doing both, you will lose your licence and will be forced to resit both the theory and practical elements of the driving test.

#### And finally on a lighter note...

A grade 1 call was received at a police station in Scotland, after a report of a disturbance that included a female screaming. Officers rushed to the address to be met by a bemused sergeant already at the scene, who explained the situation. The occupier had returned home a little worse for wear and decided to play some of his favourite tunes at high volume. The sound of the disturbance turned out to be the best of Deep Purple and the female screaming was their lead singer Ian Gillan letting forth with his best 1970's heavy rock vocals!

#### CENTRAL POLICE CONTROL 08457 444 888

Non-Emergency phone 08457 444 888 Emergency phone 999

Response Officers

PC Fiona Farrington Mob: 07817 019 374 PC Roger Bradley Mob: 07811 129860

Local Police Officers PC Andrew Bundy Mob: 07855 385 844. CSO Fiona Witcher &

**CSO Kevin Powell** Mob: **07779 141232** 

Hereford Rural South Answer phone 01432 346756

Local Reps are:

**East** 

JOHN BULBECK - 540178

**Central** 

**BOB PETERS - 540670** 

West

**BETTY PHILPOTT - 540614** 

### Items/Copy

Please may I have items for the **OCTOBER** 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



Please note advertisements Have been updated