

Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury March 2014. First published 1977

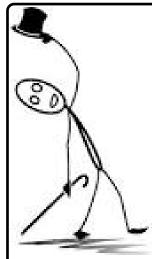
Diary Dates February

26th Gardening Club LBVH 28th David Lim Steiner Academy March

4th Pancake Evening LBVH
5th Little Birch PC LBVH
11th Evergreen Club AGM MBCH
13th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
14th Annual Quiz LBVH
21st Quiz Much Dewchurch VH
22nd Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
26th Gardening Club AGM LBVH
28th Village Market MBCH

April

4th Summer Show reading LBVH 25th & 26th Halfway Community Theatre MBCH



Summer Sunshine Variety Show (July 3,4,5)

Bring out your banners and flags, good cheer and strong voices for an evening of entertainment and participation! Another wonderful evening planned with a bar and supper.

The first meeting for read through will be on Friday

4th. April at 7.30pm at LBVH. If you are a regular performer or have a 'hidden' talent for either performing or backstage, have a poem or two tucked away then please come along and join us ALL OVER 16s WELCOME

For further information Ring Jenny 01981 541198 or Jane 07541347931



Pancake Evening

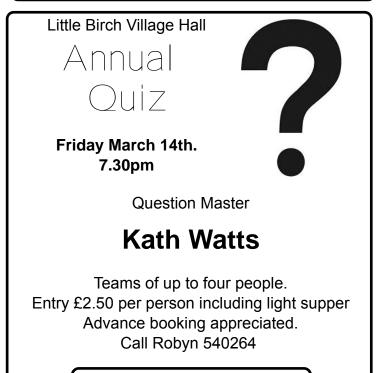
Little Birch Village Hall

March 4th. 7.30pm

All Welcome

April Newsletter

Please send copy for the April Newsletter to birchesnews@gmail.com or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close by 18th. March



There will also be a quiz at Much Dewchurch Village Hall on Friday March 21st Can the same team win both?

HALFWAY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Are are pleased to announce their Spring Concert:

"Thank you for the Music"

Come and join us for a couple of hours of music and laughter! The Concert will take place on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th April 2014 in Much Birch Community Centre. Please note that whilst the show on the Friday will be at 7.30pm to include the usual light Supper (please bring your own drink and glasses) the show on the Saturday will be at 2.30pm to include a delicious TEA in the interval Tickets at £10 each (both performances) are available from: Audrey Crowte – Phone 01981 540432

Little Birch Village Hall Pantomime

An audience of all ages was delighted by this years colourful pantomime Goldilocks and the Three Bears. It was an excellent performance from all the cast especially by the children who played acrobats and jugglers.

The Three Bears and the gorilla were a huge success with adults and children alike. Nasty Black Jack was so convincing that one little girl was frightened and had to be taken out in tears.

It was a traditional family pantomime with a happy ending and lots of audience participation. During the Saturday matinee performance there was a power failure towards the end so Goldilocks in her wedding dress was viewed by emergency lights and torches. Amazingly everyone stayed in their seats and the finale was sung without music.

A very big thank you must go to Jane Bolam as initiator and director for her work, to Bob Chance and team who worked so hard for weeks on the scenery and Geoff Nichol and crew who had the lighting and scenery down to a fine art. Patricia Kelly, stage manager, organised everything so well and Margaret Scrivens was the prompt, requiring absolute concentration from start to finish of the performances. Thanks also to all the other people behind the scenes for without them there would have been no show.

How lucky we are to have such a talented team.

Andy and Sue

Welcome you to

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Please can we have another show soon!

Message from Roger Thomas

I am sending this E-mail on behalf of my wife Edna who was in the audience last night to see Goldilocks and the three Bears. She thought it was superb-the best village pantomime yet. She hasn't stopped talking about it yet, and this morning folks in Swansea, Cambridge, London and Cheltenham were told how good it was..

Edna couldn't have enjoyed it more had it been a London Palladium production. So please pass on our congratulations to the production team, the cast. the set designer and the set builders,

wardrobe and makeup, for a show that the village can be proud of.

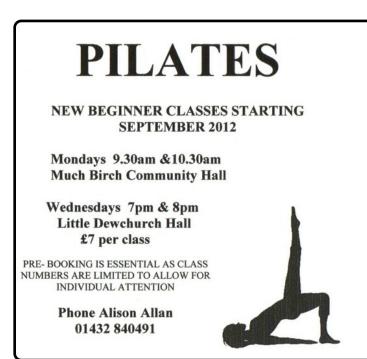
Talk on the Women of Rotherwas

Over 40 people came to Little Birch Village Hall to hear about the part women played in the munitions factory at Rotherwas in WW1 and WW 2. Julie Orton-Davies told us how the factory was built in Hereford as it had sand, gravel and water and also, they thought, plentiful workforce. They advertised and had a recruitment day but still had to import workers from elsewhere who were found digs, though hostels were built at Redhill in WW2. The workforce was two thirds women and there was great camaraderie between them though sometimes difficulties arose between locals and incomers. The job was well paid but dangerous though 'Health and Safety' did not feature apart from ensuring no sparks could be produced. Inhalation of fumes obviously affected lungs though some lived to a ripe old age. Trains from Ross and buses brought in people from all over the county. They had a good social life within the factory.

Much of the information Julie gave us came from the memories of old people who were interviewed recently. They were unsure about speaking of their experiences because of the perceived need for secrecy which was obviously impressed on them at the time. It seemed that they all enjoyed working there despite the risk of death from explosion and bombs. These events were not reported at the time. The women were proud of their work for the war effort.

Julie's talk concentrated mainly on memories of WW1 but her research is a work in progress. She is keen to talk to anyone who has knowledge of people with experiences of WW2.

If anyone does know someone who worked there then, please ring 540791 and I will put you in touch with Julie.



Local News

Congratulations go to **Mrs MARY PRICHARD** erstwhile of Hollybush Lane, who celebrated her 97th birthday on February 11th. We trust that she will enjoy a few more healthy years. Congratulations are also sent to **LYNETTE and JOHN ROBERTS** who recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary and Lynette also celebrated her ??th birthday.

It's good to report that **KATIE POWELL** (nee Turner) has recently joined Okells Solicitors in Ross on Wye to practise family Law. Katie is a member of Resolution which is an accredited body of family lawyers who all abide by a code of practice and aim to resolve family disputes in a non-confrontational manner. Katie has been practising law in Gloucester for the last few years and is now pleased to be back in her home county.

Tim and Mary Jones from the The Wriggle Kings Thorn, are pleased to announce that the christening of their grandson **Maximus Hedley Johnson** aged 16 months, took place at Little Birch Church on Jan 26th at 2pm.

A big thank you to both Rev Mark Johnson who



3

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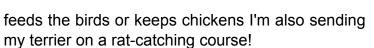
conducted the lovely service , and to Church Farm for their assistance with the parking !!

The day went really well and celebrations later carried on at Hereford Rowing Club.

Knights in Shining Armour

I would like to say a huge thank you to Graham Russell, Tim Betts and another gentleman in a silver 4WD who came to my rescue last Thursday, 23rd Jan when I broke down on Wrigglebrook Lane. It was a rather grim affair as the cause was a resident rat in my engine who got caught up in the workings! Suffice to say he is no more..not a pleasant job for the garage! However it did give the lady at the insurance company a giggle when she asked if there were any injuries!

From now on I shall be keeping my garden bird feed in a lockable rodent-proof metal container as advised by a friend....good advice for anyone who



Once again many thanks to my knights of the road! Carol Walnut Cottage

Generous donations made to the Newsletter over the last few months are gratefully acknowledged.

Two contrasing sumissions on the same subject (What should readers believe?)

The Weather

The weather has now been the dominant topic of conversation over the first 2 months of 2014. Many theories have been advanced for the 'climate change', including man's creation of so called 'greenhouse gases'. The fact is that the climate has always been changing over 11 or 40 year cycles. If one reads Paul Damari's excellent 'The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Weather Book, the extremes of rainfall, drought, frost and snow have been noted since 1125. In fact the 12th century was noted for 'famine and floods' and the 13th century recorded extremes of 'frost and drought'. 1483, also known as 'The Great Water', was noted for its continual monsoon-like rains and the water levels rose so rapidly that some people drowned in their sleep It would be boring to list all the record breaking low and high temperatures





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and how so many animals, trees and humans were killed by the extremes of the climate. So please read the book. When disasters happen, as with the current flooding of many areas, lessons of history have not been learned and coordinated planning for such contingencies must be agreed and implemented.

Is our sunshine being controlled?

What would you do if you could control the weather? Many would suggest possibly diverting floods, reducing storms or creating more sunshine. However, an increasing number of researchers around the world are discovering that our weather is already being controlled and it's being made cloudier. One such person is former doctoral researcher David Lim. He explains: "Many aeroplanes leave persistent contrails over Herefordshire which form manmade cloud conditions that reduce sunshine; there is also substantial evidence to suggest that persistent jet trails might contain toxic heavy metals that are linked to illnesses such as Alzheimer's, respiratory complaints, heart damage, sore throats and headaches. Our atmosphere is being used as a laboratory without public consent arand -observation suggests 'geoengineering'."

Geoengineering involves altering the Earth's climate system in order to moderate the effects of manmade climate change. UK Government's

Regulation of Geoengineering (2010) and the Solar Radiation Management Governance (SRMGI) detail the Initiative science and governance surrounding a highly controversial proposal to inject millions of tonnes of sulphur particles (and possibly aluminium) into the atmosphere using aircraft. The aim is to reflect sunshine away from Earth using manmade clouds (Solar Radiation Management). However, many researchers and scientists warn of the numerous risks involved and even suggest it's happening already, prior to any public consultation.

A member of public from Hereford has teamed with David to organise a talk to raise awareness of geoengineering. "This is an extremely serious issue. Many jet trails fail to dissipate like they used to and frequently form crosses, T-shapes and entire grid patterns in the sky. People need to start asking some important questions", says David.

His talk entitled 'What are those Lines in the Sky: the Geoengineering Puzzle'will be held on Friday 28thFebruary,7pm at Birch Hall, The Steiner Academy Hereford, Much Dewchurch, Hereford HR2 8DL. Local photographs, video footage,engineering patents and environmental test results will be presented. For more information visit:

http://www.naturalskies.blogspot.co.uk Contact:Donatella Lecci Address: Aclands,

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Barack hill, Little Birch, Hereford Land: 01981 540613 Email: donatella.lecci@gmail.com

Police Notices

Kingstone And Thruxton

Sometime overnight between the 19:00 on the 2nd of February and 08:30 on the 3rd of February a trailer was stolen from a farm premises. A neighbouring property was also targeted and the outbuildings were broken into various tools including a hedge trimmer and strimmer were stolen.

Hoarwithy

On the 20th of January between the hours of 11:00 and 12:00 a Twose transport box was stolen from a farm in Hoarwithy.

Little Dewchurch

A parcel that had been delivered to a property in Little Dewchurch was stolen between 11:00 and 17:00 on the 21st of January.

Little Birch

A set of ladders were stolen off a vehicle parked outside a property in the Little Birch area. This occurred sometime between 17:00 on Monday the 3rd February and 09:30 on Tuesday the 4th of February. Sometime since November a property has had approx £250 of heating oil siphoned from the tank. This has taken place sometime since the 28th of November at a property in Little Birch.

Positive Policing

I have added some advice below regarding unwanted callers at your address and on the phone. Please take a look.. It may not be relevant to you but it will be relevant to someone you know.

PCSO 6993 Kevin Powell

Hereford Southside and Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team

South Wye Police Station

Not Sure? Don't Open the Door!

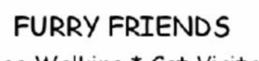
How to stop unsolicited telephone calls and mail

Older people may receive a disproportionate number of telephone calls. These can be from a variety of sources but all have in common the fact they are unsolicited and may also appear to be from an 'official' organisation or a company selling goods and/or services. In most cases the caller will be seeking information such as personal details including bank details; usage rates (if they say they are from a utility company) or other personal information. Many of these types of calls can be reduced by removing your personal details from publically available sources.

Registering with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS)

The TPS is a free service that gives you the opportunity to select who contacts you by telephone. Once registration is complete telemarketers are legally bound not to call you. Registration takes about a month to become effective and can be made online at

www.tpsonline.org.uk or via the telephone on 0845 070 0707. You will remain registered unless you



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or email sarahcatwoman@yahoo.co.uk change your telephone number or personal details. Register with the Mail Preference Service

(MPS)

The MPS is a free service which supports the right for people to choose the mail they wish to receive. Registering with this service will prevent the receipt of unsolicited direct mailing sent from companies who are members of the Direct Marketing Association. It will not stop mail from overseas, unaddressed materials or those addresses to The Occupier. Registration to this

free service can be made online at www.mpsonline.org.uk or via the

telephone on 0845 703 4599

Electoral Registers

Each year, between August and November, local authorities deliver electoral registration forms to all homes in the UK. There is a legal requirement to

complete these forms, which list all of the people living at your address on 15 October. Once the forms are completed and returned then you are eligible to vote. A new electoral register is published on 01 December each year. The electoral register is a list of the names and addresses of everyone who is eligible to vote. It is used by credit reference agencies to verify details

and prevent fraud. There are two versions of the electoral register

•a full register is used for elections, preventing and detecting crime and checking applications for loan or credit agreements

•the edited register is available for general sale and can be used for any purpose. The edited register can be bought by any person, company or organisation and can be used for commercial activities such as marketing.

Your name and address will appear on the full register and you can choose whether to appear on the edited register. To opt out of having your details appear on the edited register you should enter a in the 'Edited Register' box. You must ask each person named on the form if they want to opt out of the edited register. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/electoralregister.

Telephone Directories

All telephone numbers are listed in telephone directories and are available via Directory Enquiries. Your details can be excluded from these services by electing to be ex-directory. This will mean your details will not be listed in the Telephone Book and not be available via Directory Enquiries or via the internet. This is a free service and you can sign up by calling 0800 800 150



between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Further information can be found at www.bt.custhelp.com.

192.com

192.com is an internet based search tool to find people. The web site uses information held on Electoral Registers and Directory Enquiries. Searches can be conducted on the web site and the information provided includes amongst other things full names, addresses, phone numbers and other occupants of the dwelling. Also provided are age guides, property prices, aerial photographs and family records.

Personal details can be removed from the web site listings by completing the form reference CO1. This can be found at www.192.com then going via the 'help button' to 'the removal of personal details'

Personal details

It is important to remember to protect your personal details. Do not give any personal details including bank details to anyone either in the street, on the doorstep, over the telephone or on the internet as these details can be used to steal your identity. This may also cancel any registration with the TPS or the MPS'

King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

On March 26th the AGM will take place at Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm to receive reports and elect officers for the new year. The programme for 2014/15 will be presented. New members are always welcome and the annual membership fee is £10. On April 23rd, Mrs Julia Scott will be giving a talk entitled

' Good health and Herbs'.

This will be followed in May by Jon Mason who will demonstrate the art of making 'hanging baskets and containers'.

Further details from John Bryant (01981) 540316.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next meeting for the "Book Exchange" will be on Saturday 8 March at Little Birch Village Hall. All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable monthly event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests,) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for "a good read".

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

There is a charge of £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire of hall and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you on 8 March 2014.

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday11 March at Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30.p.m.The entrance fee is £2.00.

We are always on the 'look out' for new members including those who are new to Whist and others who may not have played for some time. A warm welcome, good company and enjoyment of an evening of Whist may be just what you need! Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available.

Annual Pancake evening Shrove Tuesday 4 March

Homemade pancakes with a variety of delicious fillings, savoury and sweet!

£2.50 for two and 50p for each additional one you can manage!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall.

The March meeting takes place on 18th when Graham Wren will tell us about The Countryside in the 60's

To whet your appetite, in April the subject of the evening will be 'Cooking in Private Service' with Janet Wall.

The Open Meeting, to which husbands, partners and friends are particularly welcome, is on 17th July when the subject will be 'How old did you say you were?' What an interesting subject!!

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

Much Birch Village Market

MBVM takes place on the 4th Friday of the month (except December, when it is the 3rd Friday), in Much Birch Community Hall, between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

The March market is on 28th. Stalls will include;

The Squeaky Pig, award winning suppliers of locally reared rare breed pork, sausage, including Gluten free (to order) and bacon. Moor Meals,

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award winning, local suppliers of Dexter beef, ready meals and pies. **Llandinabo Farm shop**, Castle Cheese, and Mr.G's chutney and preserves. Hopefully, our vegetable stall will be back.

There is a Fair Trade stand and craft stands.

Dan will be back to sharpen your knives and tools. Refreshments and 'take home cakes', the proceeds of which go to MacMillan Cancer Support, are supplied by Chris and Peter.

Please support our producers who bring local food and crafts almost 'to our door'.

(PS. It would appear that, nationally, we are being encouraged to 'Buy British'. Even better, 'Buy Local' and help the Herefordshire economy.) If you would like to have a stall, or to find out more about the market, please contact Mark on 01432 278026 or on the day, Kath on 01981 540382

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

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Meeting held on the 6th February 2014, at the Much Birch Community Hall. There were a number of parents



and residents present who raised concerns over the new yellow line restrictions in the vicinity of the Much Birch School. The Parish Council resolved to contact the Highways Agency, and Herefordshire Council, in regard to these concerns. There was also discussion over the ongoing problems being experienced with the roads in relation to potholes, erosion and general flooding. The public are asked to report any blocked drains, ditches, gullies and of floodina SO that thev can be communicated to the relevant officers responsible for addressing the issues. Please contact the Clerk or your local councillor, whose details are advised here. PCSO Kevin Powell was also in attendance and he gave an update on local crime trends on behalf of West Mercia Police.

A reminder that:-

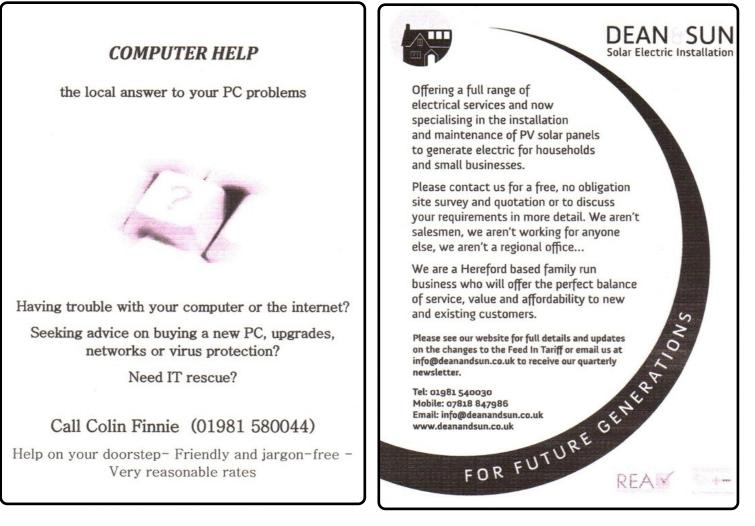
Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-Cllr **Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703

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, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail a.crum@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 540002 Cllr **Jon Norris** Whitewells, Laskett Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HZ, e mail jon@jonnorris.co.uk Tel. 07944 301250 Cllr **Keith James** The Slinget, Tump Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HP, e mail keithjamesphotos@btinternet.com Tel 01981 540171

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.

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St Michael'sHospice

Because of YOU...

This year St Michael's Hospice is celebrating it's 30th anniversary. Since 1984

St Michael's has revolutionised the provision of palliative care in Herefordshire and the surrounding counties and the Education Department has also played a role in the development of palliative care nationally.

Because a life-limiting diagnosis affects the whole family, St Michael's has developed a wide range of services allowing Hospice doctors, nurses and social workers the time to support patients and familv members. The In-Patient Unit is complemented by clinics and services which provide people with the care they need, whether in the community, their home or the at the Hospice. Groundbreaking initiatives like 'Saturday Club' give children who have a parent or family member with a palliative diagnosis the chance to attend a club specifically designed to meets the needs of young people.

It costs £4.2 million each year to provide all these services and incredibly most of this money comes from the local community. It is this extraordinary support which makes St Michael's Hospice much

more than a just a building. St Michael's is loved by the community and it's that love that makes it possible for your Hospice to offer the highest quality of palliative care.

Later this year St Michael's Hospice will be opening the doors to a brand new In-Patient Unit. The new state-of-the art building will ensure the continued provision of palliative care for the local population for generations to come. St Michael's Hospice would like to thank everyone who has played a part in making the redevelopment of the Hospice possible.

To find out more about your Hospice visit www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

Sponsored dog walks

Bring along your pampered pooch to our sponsored dog walks and support your local Hospice

Hereford 5km walk - Wyevale Garden Centre Sunday 9th March

Leominster 4km walk - Bridge Street Leisure Centre

Saturday 22nd March

Ledbury 5km walk - HJ Pugh's field (opposite Ledbury RFC)

Saturday 5th April

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The three routes will pass through some of Herefordshire's picturesque most fields. woodlands, riverbanks and country lanes and there is always a real sense of community spirit at the heart of this ever-popular event. After each walk there will also be a variety of doggy entertainment to keep the whole family amused. Paws for Thought Dog Display Team will give demonstrations of dog tricks and skills. You can even display your own dog's talents in the Have-a-Go Agility and Doggy Dash competitions. There will also be many doggy-themed stalls from local businesses for you to browse after the walk, so you will be supporting your local community as well as your Hospice. Bouncy castles and orienteering will keep children entertained while adults have time for a drink and taste some delicious locally produced food.

Individual walks

Pre-entry £5 per adult-£3 per child under 16.

On the day £7 per adult - £5 per child under 16. Three walks

Pre-entry for all three walks \pounds 12 per adult / \pounds 7 per child under 16.

For more information www.st-michaels-

hospice.org.uk/Events

Much Birch WI had an excellent speaker in January from St. Michaels Hospice giving us an insight into what it hopes to achieve now and what it hopes to achieve in the future, giving us full details of the extra building that is currently under way. One of our members, Margaret was so proud that her son is the architect of the whole wonderful plan. It is amazing that this is all funded by the citizens of Hereford with help from various charities.



Our NHS Medical Records

The February Newsletter included information about the controversial NHS proposal on the use of our medical records. A more detailed submission was received for this edition but it was not included because of the announcement that the proposal has been postponed for six months.

Much Birch Church

Pew Coverngs

The PCC of Much Birch Church would like to replace the present carpet coverings of the pews with red foam padded upholstered cushions and would welcome donations or sponsorship towards the total cost of £2,372. We have 18 pews which would cost £126.36 each and the single shorter one at £98.28. We would be grateful for any donation towards the total cost and it is not necessary to sponsor a single pew unless you would like to. Please forward any donation by post to Churchwarden Sylvia Jones, Chelston Grange,

Much Birch, HR2 8HR. Or by hand to

Churchwarden Janet Thomas. All donations and sponsorship can be Gift Aided. We look forward to your support.

Forthcoming Fundraising Events

2nd May - Ladies and Children's Fashion Show and Clothes Sale

