



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury March 2015. First published 1977

Little Birch Village Hall

Annual Quiz

For teams of up to four people

£2 per person

Refreshments during Interval

Friday March 27th. 2015 at 7.30 pm

Quizmaster Kath Watts

If you are not yet a member of a team but would like to take part please come along as we can put you together with others to make up a team.

For enquiries and booking call Robyn on 01981 540264

Why? Who? What? Where?

Sunday Church Services in March

- 1st. L.Birch 11am. Holy Communion
8th. M.Birch 9.15am Family Communion
L. Birch 11am Morning Worship
15th. Benefice Service 10.30am at Little Birch
22nd M Birch 9.15am Matins
L Birch 11am Family Worship
29th. Palm Sunday- Walk from King's Caple Church 9.15am with a donkey to Sellack Church for a Service 10.30am

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

Diary Dates

February

25th Gardening Club LBVH

27th Village Market MBCH

March

5th MB Parish Council MBCH

7th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

10th Whist Drive LBVH

10th Evergreen AGM MBCH

11th LB parish Council LBVH

12th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

14th Book Exchange LBVH

17th Womens Institute MBCH

25th Gardening Club AGM LBVH

26th Easter Bingo LBVH

27th Lent Lunch LBVH

27th Village Market MBCH

27th Annual Quiz LBVH

28th Coffee Morning Meadow Hall

30th Children's Workshop MBCH

April

2nd Parish Council MBCH

29th Gardening Club LBVH

May

2nd Puddings Evening MBCH

6th Duchy Walk, Athelstans Wood

7th Election Day

16th Plant Sale MBCH

June

13th Monmouth MV Choir MBCH

**Coffee and Bring and Buy at
MEADOW HALL**

Llanwarne

Saturday 28.03.15 10 -12.30

In aid of MUCH BIRCH CHURCH

Local News.

A very warm welcome is given to **Wendy Beynon** and **Craig Coppin** who have moved into 'Iscoed', King's Thorn together with daughter, **Rhyanna Coppin** and dog, 'Shiloh'. We trust that they will be very happy in their new home and will make new friends in this community.

It is sad to record the death of **Lillian Thomas** long time resident in Tump Lane, Much Birch. Lillian was born in 1921 in Fulham, London, the youngest of 3 sisters, her elder siblings being Florrie and Eva. In WW2 at the height of the bombing in London, the 3 sisters evacuated to Much Dewchurch to live with a family friend which must have come as a great shock as there was no mains water and no electricity. Lillian did her bit for the war effort in working at the munitions factory at Rotherwas. It is not known precisely what she did but on one occasion she was suspended for nearly blowing up the area in which she worked!

Lillian regularly attended village dances where she met husband to be, Reg, who was a drummer in one of the bands. They fell in love and after a short engagement were married in 1944. They first of all lived with Reg's parents at the Reading Room, Wormelow and Raymond was born in 1945. The family moved to 'Old Bryngwyn', where in due time Ashley and Philip (but known as Pat) were born.

Life was tough, with Reg working all hours and Lillian picking fruit at Long Orchard Farm. Ten years after Pat was born, along came their daughter, Ann, moving the family up the housing list so that in 1958, the family moved into 32, Tump Lane. Life had relatively improved but money was still short. Ray was about to leave school and start earning and a few years later, Ashley and Pat also went out into the world of work.

In 1964, tragedy struck when Ashley just 18, was caught up in a motorcycle accident outside the Broadleys Pub on the Ross Road and was killed and later buried in Much Birch churchyard.

The mid-60's were tough for Reg and Lillian but the family soldiered on with spirit and determination to overcome this tragedy. In 1980, Ann married David in Much Birch Church with Reg just managing to stand at her side. He had been suffering with cancer for some time and three months later he lost the battle and he was laid to rest in the churchyard a few spaces away from Ashley's grave.

There was some compensation for Lillian with the arrival in turn of grandchildren Simon, then Paul

and Kerry. She doted on all three of them not only as grandma but swimming instructor, tennis coach and even 'goalie' as they played on the green in Tump Lane. All the grandchildren were always close to her heart as neither Ray nor Pat were married.

Lillian played darts for many years as a member of the ladies team at the Tump Inn at Wormelow. She was the life and soul of many birthday celebrations and for her 70th went on holiday with friends to Crete. She enjoyed walks with the Hereford Rambling Association and walked most of the Offa's Dyke path both ways.

For her 80th, friends and family organised a surprise party at Wormelow Bowling Club at Park Hall, which she greatly appreciated. and there was a best present that she could imagine. a balloon trip over Herefordshire. Sadly, this was delayed for a year due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak but she certainly enjoyed every moment of it when it took place.

As part of her 90th. birthday, friends in Tump Lane arranged a barbeque in her honour and the family gave her a day out at Hereford Races - she was in a wheel chair some of the time with a large balloon attached which caused spontaneous outbursts of 'Happy Birthday to you', much to Lillian's embarrassment.

The family continued to expand with the arrival of great grandchildren. Paul one of the grandchildren, moved to Texas and married Sam and Lillian loved to see them when they came to the UK and often used Ann's iPad for 'facetime' with them in Texas.

Although there were plenty of good memories, tragedy was never far away and in 1988, Pat died very suddenly and was buried in the churchyard and in 2013, Ray also died when Lil was on holiday and his ashes are interred in the Garden of Remembrance just behind the Church.

In March 2014, Lillian had a fall at home and broke her hip spending a week in the County Hospital before moving to Ledbury Hospital to recuperate. She picked up a chest infection whilst there and everyone thought that she wouldn't pull through. However, this 'old girl' was as tough as nails and came home again for a short while. She then needed extra care and moved into Manor Rest Home in Hereford. Even though she was only there for 7 months, she made many new friends and enjoyed the activities that the home arranged. Early in January, her health deteriorated and she was taken into the County Hospital where she

passed peacefully away on the 15th. at the age of 93 years.

A Service of Thanksgiving for her life was held at Much Birch Church on 28th January to a packed congregation of family and many, many friends. The Service was conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson from whose address these notes have been compiled.

The death of **'Margot' Curtis** of Hentland also occurred on 23rd January at the home of her nephew, Roger, at Tenby, where she had been staying for several months. Margot was born at Hentland School where her mother was the school mistress. She lived a very colourful life teaching in Rhodesia when her husband Bernard took up an appointment there and coming back to teach at Hentland for a short time following the death of her mother.

The school closed in 1961 and Margot transferred to Much Birch School and was assistant to the late Miss Lawrence in both the Old School (now a B&B establishment) and in the present (New School) from 1966 under the late Noel Lewis. She taught here for over 25 years and only gave up when her husband, Bernard, suffered a stroke and Margot stayed at home to nurse him.

They had enjoyed many holidays both in the UK and abroad. Bernard died in 1991 and Margot joined the Over 60's Club followed by the Pop In club and the Evergreen Club. She also enjoyed Old Time Dancing and joined the Club which met at Little Birch Village Hall and met at the Axe and Cleaver for lunch to celebrate members birthdays. She usually had lunch on Mondays with the late Olivet Lewis at the Axe. She is fondly remembered as a very good teacher by many ex-pupils at the school.

Her funeral service was taken by Rev. Fran Pullen at Hentland Church on 9th. February followed by Cremation. Donations in memory of Margot were sent to the British Heart Foundation.

We send our condolences to nephew Roger and his family and to niece, Sue, and her family.

It is with deep regret that the death of Joyce Baker of Much Birch is announced. Joyce was in her 90th. year having been born in 1925 at Red Rail Farm, Hoarwithy. She attended Hentland school where she met Jim in her early teens and enjoyed singing in the Choir at Hoarwithy Church. Joyce left school at 14 but continued reading and studying. She was 17 when she married Jim in 1943 and worked in the ATS as a clerk before

starting a family in 1947. Joyce worked extremely hard throughout her life bringing up five children as well as working in all weathers on farms where Jim worked.

The first family home was at 'Love Dee', Pencoyd and Carol was born there. In 1947, the deep snow lasted for over 6 weeks and the family were more or less marooned at home having to cut a path through to walk to Harewood End for basic provisions. The other five children arrived in turn with Michael, Beryl, George and Margaret.

In 1960, the family settled at Long Orchard Farm, owned by the Achesons, which is still the family home today. Here, Joyce continued to work hard on the farm and loved to spoil the grandchildren as they came along.

Later, Joyce worked as a housekeeper for Mrs. Sheila Acheson and over the years, became a firm friend and companion. Later, Mr. Geoff. Perry bought the farm and Joyce worked in the pack house only agreeing to retire at a mere eighty years young !! Geoff also became a firm family friend and often spoke of his admiration for all that Joyce did.

Joyce did have a go at driving a car but after demolishing a few blackcurrant bushes, decided not to persevere! Around this time, she decided to give up smoking but she liked to have a 'secret' cigarette now and again. She had a pinafore with very large pockets in which she concealed her cigarette in her hand if anyone turned up unexpectedly. Needless to say, there were many scorch marks in those pockets. Joyce also had a great passion for football and supported Manchester United where David Beckham was her idol. Members of the family often turned up in opposing club colours just to wind her up but she always took it in good spirit.

Joyce didn't do sewing!! Jim is sure he remembers buying new clothes rather than having the buttons replaced - his shirts were conveniently 'lost'. Joyce endorsed the terrors of sewing to all the younger ones by playfully chasing them with a needle if a sewing exercise was essential. Any new members joining the family were swiftly and gratefully indoctrinated into her theory of avoiding sewing at all costs!

Joyce was a family oriented person through and through being very proud and protective of her five children, eleven grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren! Jim and Joyce were extremely proud when **George**

was awarded an MBE.

After living at Worcester Cottage for nearly 55 years there are many happy memories. Everyone was welcome into their home where the 'kettle was always on' and Joyce was the most hospitable of wives! She will be remembered for her sense of humour, kindness, tact and love for all the family. Her love of classical music was outstanding and the home would often be loudly filled with Elgar's music among others. This probably developed during her time working for and living in with Mrs. Dance at the Old Mill, Hoarwithy, who had been a personal friend of Elgar years before.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Joyce's Life was held in at Much Birch Church on Friday, 13th February conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson. Such was the respect in which Joyce was held that there was standing room only for her Service. Appropriately, Mozart's Clarinet Concerto was played as the coffin entered and exited the Church. The reading of 'Death is nothing at all' was given by daughter in law, Celia Baker and a piece of Elgar's Enigma Variations was played during a Time for Reflection of memories of Joyce. Readings were also given by grandchildren, Rebecca Evans and Kevin Baker while son, George, gave the eulogy. Joyce's body was buried in the churchyard on the far side in view of Worcester Cottage.

We send our sincere sympathies to all the family and especially to Jim and children, Carol, Michael, Beryl, Jim and Margaret and their families. Joyce will be so sadly missed by the family and many, many friends.

Donations in memory of Joyce were given to St. Michael's Hospice and Much Birch Church.

Children's Workshop

Sarah Dean is running a Children's Springtime Fabric Wreath Making Workshop on Monday 30th March 10am - 12pm at Much Birch Community Hall. The cost will be £4 per wreath to include all materials. Please do come along and collaborate with your children to make a beautiful Easter gift using recycled materials (suitable for ages 3 to 80+)!

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The February 2015 draw took place on 15th February in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am and the results were as follows:

1st prize - No 27 **Mr. K. Davies** Much Birch

2nd prize – No 63 **Mrs C. Powell** Much Birch

3rd prize – No 4 **Mr. E. Bowen** Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 8th March 2015 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones Promoter

Much Birch Church

Save your seedlings and Plants

Much Birch Church Fundraising Committee is holding a Plant Sale and Afternoon Tea in Much Birch Community Hall on Saturday, 16th May 2015 at 2.15pm. As usual they would be very grateful for the donations of plants. More details next month.

Other Events

Saturday 28th March 2015 – Coffee morning at Meadow Hall, Llanwarne. Details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Saturday 2nd May 2015 at 7pm - Puddings Evening with a Magic Show

Saturday 13th June 2015 at 7pm – Monmouth Male Voice Choir.

Lent Lunch

The Annual Lent Lunch in aid of Sightsavers International will take place on Friday, 27th March 12.30pm - 2pm in Little Birch Village Hall.

Choice of 4 soups with French Breadstick or Wholemeal Bread, Cheese, Tomatoes, Celery and Grapes.

Please support this Charity and meet new residents in the community.

The Evergreen Club

Notice of AGM

This takes place at Much Birch Community Hall on Tuesday 10 March at 2.30pm.

New Members

Are you 55 years plus? Would you like to join The Evergreen Club – the friendly group for enjoyable days out? We have monthly trips and our members tell us that we visit many interesting places.

For more information, please ring Bridget on 01981 540932 or why not join us for tea and biscuits after our brief AGM, at Much Birch Community Hall on Tuesday 10 March from 2.30pm onwards. We look forward to meeting new members and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

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 Council Meeting held on the 5th February at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting heard proposals for the opening of a **Village Shop** for the area, possibly on the site of the old Wormelow Stores. A Questionnaire had been prepared for people to convey their requirements, and thoughts, and this information would be collated into an action plan to acquire a site and move things forward.

Those present also heard about a meeting that had been held at the **Much Birch School** concerning road and safety issues. Actions will be put forward as a result of this, including speed monitoring initiatives and a further meeting will be arranged, with the Highways Agency represented, to explore further suggestions. The full meeting notes can be read on the Much Birch web site, following the link at the bottom of this précis.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 5th March 2015 at 7.30pm - at The Much Birch Community Hall. Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

A reminder that:-

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage,
Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703

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

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

Cllr 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

Cllr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook,
Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail

tjsj@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

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

KingThorn's and Little Birch Gardening Club

The Meeting on Wed. Feb 25th.at 7.30pm will be highlighted with an illustrated talk by Helen Picton of the famous Ballard Nursery whose family have been involved in the growing and breeding of Michaelmas Daisies.

The AGM will take place on March 25th at 7.30pm when reports and programme for the year will be given. This will be followed by a power point presentation on the work of the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Clubs of which our Club is a member.

Further information from John Bryant 01981 540316.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Whist Drive

Your local Whist Drive needs YOU!

We'd love to see you at our monthly whist drive whether you haven't played for some time or you're a complete beginner. We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 10th March at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at 7.30 p.m and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The regular monthly meeting of the 'LBVH Book Exchange' will be on the morning of Saturday 14th March at Little Birch Village Hall 10am – 12pm.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests,) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for "a good read".

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

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire of hall and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you on 14th March.

Easter Prize Bingo

Following the success of our Christmas Bingo last December it's eyes down again for our popular

prize bingo night at Little Birch Village Hall. This is always a fun evening with great prizes and refreshments available so if you want to be "top of the shop" dust of your dabbers and come along on Thursday 26th March at 7:30 pm, (eyes down at 8pm).

Annual Little Birch Village Hall Quiz

Will you be crowned as a member of the winning team of the 2015 Little Birch Village Annual Quiz? Little Birch Village Hall again plays host to this enjoyable and entertaining evening on 27th March at 7:30pm. Teams of 4 are invited to compete in a series of rounds.

If you are not yet a member of a team but would like to take part please come along as we can put you together with others to make up a team of 4. £2 per person, refreshments available.

Pantomime

Peter Pan, the little Birch Village Hall pantomime proved to be another great success for the Drama Group. The Hall was full for the three performances on Friday and Saturday and there was a good audience for the Sunday Rotary Club charity.

Well done the cast and those who designed and made the scenery and created the sound and lighting effects. As one email said, "they get better and better every year"

As usual Director Jane Bolam did a marvellous job. The children were the stars of the show and given the opportunity should go far in future. Hopefully they will be seen again next year.

Who needs the Courtyard when we have the stage in Little Birch?

Pancake Evening

Shrove Tuesday was again celebrated at Little Birch Village Hall. Thanks are due to the ladies who made large quantities of pancakes and fillings to feed the record attendance.

South Hereford Rural Police Briefing

As **Jim Preece** mentioned in his last briefing, I will be writing the briefings for your area for now - many of you will probably remember that I wrote them for several years up until about 18 months ago when Kevin Powell took over. I am based at Peterchurch police station and my area is the Golden Valley; however, I am happy to be the point of contact for your area until a permanent replacement is forthcoming.

The briefings will be in the same format as the

Golden Valley ones i.e. not sent as an attachment, apologies for yet more changes!

Crime Trends

Garway

A quantity of heating oil was stolen from a domestic tank at a property on Garway Hill sometime between Sunday 25th January and Monday 2nd February.

Incident ref 343-s-020215

Kingstone

A red Nissan terrano W26RCV was stolen overnight last night (Sunday 8th/Monday 9th February) from a locked building in a farmyard outside the village. Also stolen was an Lfor Williams quad bike trailer that had been stored in another building.

Incident ref 80-s-090215

Suspicious vehicles

A grey VW Toureg 4 x 4 AK14XEE was in the Tretire area on Friday 6th February at 11am with two males offering chainsaws and diesel generators for sale. One male had an Irish accent, had a stocky build and dark hair. The second male wasn't spoken to but he was thinner, they looked to be in their 40's.

Incident ref 177-s-060215

Probably connected to the above; a white Peugeot partner panel van ML12HPN was seen in Ewyas Harold and Pontrilas on the same day but later in the day, with two Irishmen also offering generators and chainsaws for sale. The males were giving the name of well known businessmen saying they were recommending them - the businessmen did no such thing!

Incident ref 481-s-060215

Do not buy from these type of cold-callers, or any other in fact, unless they offer you receipts and a written 7 day cooling off period. By law, anything offered for sale at the door with a value of £42 or over, must be accompanied by the relevant paperwork, with clear details of the company selling the item. With regard to the chainsaws being offered by these individuals - it is most likely that they will fail any UK safety checks; they are manufactured abroad and are very poor quality and certainly not worth the amount they are being offered for.

IMPORTANT - In reading this, you understand and agree that any vehicle registration numbers given may belong to members of the

public going about their lawful business and no inference expressed or implied should be taken that the vehicle and or its occupants have committed any offence UNLESS otherwise specifically stated by the author of this update.

Suspicious incidents

An elderly resident of Holme Lacy had a visit last week from a male stating he was from Herefordshire Council and needed to look at his shower room and kitchen with regard to repairs needed. The male was given access to the property, ID was not shown at the time and subsequent checks with the council and Herefordshire Housing confirm that no visit had been arranged. Nothing was taken at the time and the male was not left alone in the property.

Incident ref 322-s-060215

Community Safety Evening in Ewyas Harold

On Tuesday 10th February, the Golden Valley Local Policing Team held a Community Safety Evening in the function room at The Temple Bar in Ewyas Harold.

There were presentations from West Mercia Police; Herefordshire Council - Trading Standards and Community Protection Team; Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue, and The Road Safety Partnership.

Those attending learned more about home security; fire safety in the home; how to deal with bogus caller and rogue traders; what can be done about fly tipping and other anti-social incidents; what you can do about speeding in your area and many other issues.

Parishes covered by Hereford Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team

Aconbury; Allensmore; Ballingham; Bolstone; Callow; Dewsall; Dinedor; Garway; Grafton; Harewood; Haywood; Hentland; Holme Lacy; Kenderchurch; Kentchurch; Kilpeck; Kingstone; Little Birch; Much Birch; Little Dewchurch; Llandinabo; Llanwarne; Lower Bullingham; Much Dewchurch; Orcop; Pencoyd; St Devereaux; St Weonards; Tretire with Michealchurch; Thruxton; Treville; Wormbridge.

Fiona Witcher PCSO 6173

Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team

Peterchurch Police Station Herefordshire

HR2 0RR 07779 141232

St Michael's Hospice

Can you help St Michael's Hospice make 2015 our best Open Gardens summer to date?

In 2014, gardeners from Herefordshire and beyond

used their horticultural creativity to support St Michael's Hospice by opening their gardens.

Visitors enjoyed the delights of 32 unique gardens, including private gardens not normally open to the public such as the Newport House estate. Stoke Prior and Wellington Heath also held village-wide Open Garden events. In total, an astonishing £24,000 was raised by our green-fingered supporters.

Opening your garden for St Michael's Hospice can be a very rewarding experience, for you and the people who visit. If you have a garden that delights people, please think about opening it for St Michael's Hospice. It doesn't have to be elaborate: as long as your garden is interesting and has character, we would love to hear from you. We will give you all the help and guidance needed to offer visitors the chance to share and enjoy your love of gardening.

It's up to you when you would like to open your garden. Perhaps you'd like to join with neighbours and hold a village Open Garden day? The choice is yours.

If you are interested in finding out more, please call the Community Fundraising Team at St Michael's Hospice on 01432 851000.

Please support St Michael's Hospice and help make 2015 a summer of gardening delights.

Much Birch WI

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

Visitors and potential new members are welcome.

The March speaker will be Colin Javens whose subject is Dream, Drive and Love.

Visitors and potential new members are welcome.

Please contact Gillian, 01981 540080 or Caroline, 01981 540422 for more details.

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 next Village Market of 2015 takes place on Friday, 27th March

Stalls will include; **Moor Meals**, award winning, local suppliers of Dexter beef, ready meals and pies, **Llandinabo Farm shop**, selling sausages, chicken, duck, lamb etc. as well as some cooked meats and cheese. Also we have **Castle Cheese**,

and **Mr. G's** award winning chutney and preserves. There are craft stands and a **Fair Trade** stand.

If you would like to have a stall, or to find out more about the market, please contact Mark on 01432 278026 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.)

And Finally

The competition last month attracted four entries that correctly interpreted the T shirt inscription. It represented **i 8 sum pi** which sounds like **I ate some pie**. **Andrew Collinson** is declared the winner for his suggestion that **Desperate Dan** would be the most appropriate wearer of the shirt.

This month a submission from a reader is included. It could surely form the basis a script for a TV programme such as Silent Witness or Death in Paradise.

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science, AAFS President, Doctor Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death.

Here is the story:

On March 23, 1994, the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus, and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. Mr. Opus had jumped from the top of a ten-story building intending to commit suicide.

He left a note to that effect indicating his despondency. As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window, which killed him instantly.

Neither the shooter nor the deceased was aware that a safety net had been installed just below the eighth floor level to protect some building workers and that Ronald Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned.

An elderly man and his wife occupied the room on the ninth floor where the shotgun blast emanated. They were arguing vigorously and he was threatening her with a shotgun! The man was so upset that when he pulled the trigger he completely missed his wife, and the pellets went through the window, striking Mr. Opus.

When one intends to kill subject 'A', but kills subject 'B' instead, one is guilty of the murder of

subject 'B'.

When confronted with the murder charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant, and both said they thought the shotgun was not loaded. The old man said it was a long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her therefore the killing of Mr Opus appeared to be an accident, assuming the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support, and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother. Since the loader of the gun was aware of this, he was guilty of the murder even though he did not actually pull the trigger. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now here comes the exquisite twist.

Further investigation revealed that the son was, in fact, Ronald Opus. He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten-story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window. The son, Ronald Opus, had actually murdered himself. Therefore, the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

A true story from Associated Press.

Hair by Rachel

*" I am a fully qualified mobile hairdresser
with more than 20 years experience,
I am new to the area and I look forward
to hearing from you "*

07778782459

email: rachel@my-personal-stylist.com

Late News

COMMUNITY SHOP IN WORMELOW

PUBLIC MEETING: MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2015, 7:30PM, PILGRIM HOTEL

Thank you for completing the questionnaire; the response has been excellent. We have members of the community who have volunteered to sit on the steering committee, but we welcome more offers of help. We need you to vote for you chair person, secretary and treasurer. Please come and meet us, and have your say as we are working on your behalf to create your community shop.

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP.

To be held at the Pilgrim Hotel on Monday 9th March 2015 starting at 1930 hours.

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence - Attendance
2. Update and outline and process of setting up a community shop
3. Duties and structure of the Steering Committee
4. Election of officers and appointment of the Steering Committee
5. Discuss possible property
6. Any Other Business
9. Date of next Public Meeting