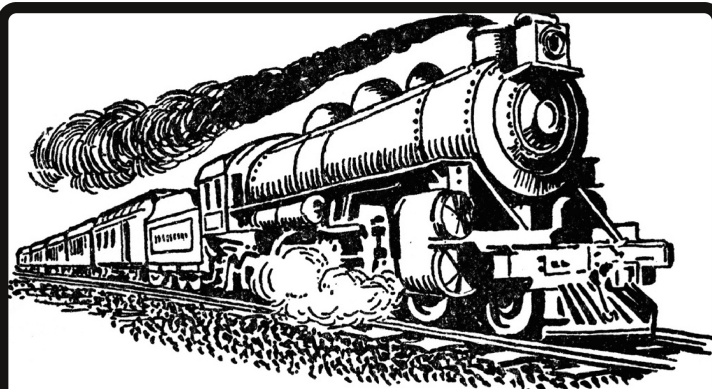




Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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



Little Birch & King's Thorn History Group

An illustrated talk by by
Martin Connop-Price

The Gloucester- Ross-Hereford Railway

(Closed 50 years ago this year)

Little Birch Village Hall

Thursday November 20th at 7.30 p.m.

Entry £3.50 including light refreshments

CONCERT..

Halfway Community Theatre are hosting a Concert entitled 'TASTE OF CHRISTMAS' at Much Birch Community Hall on SAT. 6th. December commencing at 2.30pm. All are very welcome to come and hear Christmas songs and poems and share in a lovely tea together with a cup of tea or coffee. Tickets cost £10 with children and students at £6. Please call Audrey on 01981 540432 for tickets.

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

Diary Dates

October

29th Gardening Club LBVH

November

6th Much Birch Parish Council MBCH

11th Whist Drive LBVH

13th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

12th Little Birch Parish Council LBVH

15th Book Exchange LBVH

15th Harvest Supper Evening LBVH

18th Womens Institute MBCH

20th History Talk LBVH

21st Village Market MBCH

22nd Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

26th Gardening Club LBVH

December

3rd Gardening Club Social LBVH

6th Halfway Theatre Concert MBCH

4th Christmas Bingo LBVH

9th Whist Drive LBVH

19th Village Market MBCH

31st New Years Eve Party LBVH

Harvest Supper Evening

With The **Border Reelers**
and The **Compost Heap**

Little Birch Village Hall

Saturday, 15th November, 2014 at 7.30pm
(In aid of St. Mary's Church, Little Birch)

Tickets: Adults £6.00. Under 14s £4.00

(Includes a hot supper)

***Bar *Raffle *Family entertainment**

Little Birch Church will be pleased to welcome the new Border Reelers music group, who, with The Compost Heap, will provide an evening of pure Harvest entertainment for the whole family. Why not join us for this un-missable event.

For tickets, please contact

James Gould (01981 540676)

John Caton (01981 540267)

John Bryant (01981 540316)

See you there!

CEREMONY at the Rosemary Rigby Millennium Green, FRIDAY, 7th. NOV at 10.30am.

A planting of a Liquid Amber tree will take place to commemorate the start of the First World War, one hundred years ago! The Reception Class of Much Birch School- Autumn term have accepted an invitation to help with the planting, accompanied by their Head Teacher, Mrs. Hilary Hines. The Trustees of the Millennium Green are delighted with the project and wish everyone a happy and memorable occasion!

The Rev. Mark Johnson is to be with us with a prayer and blessing for the little tree.

Mr. Andy Hoare, Landlord of the Axe and Cleaver Inn, is kindly coming and bringing his Cornet to play The Last Post and Reveille in special memory of the many who made the ultimate sacrifice- their life.

Mr. John Sawkins of Breinton will act as chief tree planter with of course guidance from the children!!

Anyone who would like to join us on this great day would be most welcome.

Please remember we would like each child to bring a teaspoon to help scatter the soil and all adults - a tablespoon,

Please note, the Millennium Green is the only one in South Herefordshire and is my precious gift to the area. Please enjoy! Rosemary Rigby, Cartref House, Wormelow. 01981 540477.

Newsletter Donations

The newsletter gratefully acknowledges donations received through Rosemary Rigby. Mrs. Lavinia Birch moved from Little Birch to Kent some months ago and has written a charming letter to thank all her neighbours for their kindnesses and help. She also included a generous donation for this Newsletter

Pub Night September 27th

A good number of people assembled in Little Birch Village Hall to enjoy an evening of chatting, drinking and pub games. In the absence of our much missed local hostelry it is good to have an opportunity to meet and chat with people one only waves to in a passing car and to meet new people. The evening, including the bar (with an excellent barrel of 'Purity Gold') and delicious hot dogs, was ably organised by the Village Hall Committee who are to be thanked for providing this opportunity. A good time was had by all.

Film Show on October 9th

The History Group organised the screening of 'Wartime Secrets' and 'Chewing the Cud' to which at least 50 people came. Both films were of local interest.

'**Wartime Secrets**' was introduced by Maureen Beauchamp. Her father moved his factory, Baronia Metals, from London to Hereford after being bombed during WWII. The factory produced fuel valves for Spitfires and Hurricanes so everything was very 'hush-hush'. This archive film showed the workforce at work and play and was an excellent period piece.

'**Chewing the Cud**' was about Hereford Cattle Market and featured photos and film from all periods including interviews with many people involved in the market. There were very old photos of animals in town streets and then of the purpose built market at various stages in its development. Of interest were the tree-covered pens and sale rings and also railway lines coming right to the gate. However animals were seen being driven along roads and streets even until the 1970s. New sheds shown were built in the 1950s and 60s then all was swept away for the new retail market. The relocated out-of-town market also featured. Interviews caused much interest as people were reminded of many things and recognised some of the people being interviewed, including Gerald Skyrme.

In the interval an excellent 'Ploughman's' spread was provided by the Village Hall Committee.

Thank You

A big thank you to the friends and neighbours of Ken Pipe for all their concern and good wishes. After four years of living with people looking after him Dad now needs supervision and nursing 24 hours a day and, with my great reluctance, has had to go into residential care where I know he is safe.

This means that his bungalow, Stoneleigh, has to be sold. After many years of neglect a lot of ground clearing had to take place which caused a week of misery to the neighbours. I cannot express how grateful I am for their patience and understanding during this time.

I enjoyed the time I lived in this village-a real community. Now I hope to find new owners for Stoneleigh who will also have a happy time.

Thank you all again.

Heather Bonewell (nee Pipe)

Lost

A trestle table is missing from Little Birch Village Hall. Anyone who has borrowed it and inadvertently forgotten to return it or who knows where it is please call 01981 540682 or 01981541027

Police News

Due to being a way I have not sent out an email for a while. I have researched the crimes from the start of October and have listed them below.

Kingstone

A caravan was stolen from an industrial unit in Kingstone. The caravan was behind locked gates, the padlock appeared to be cut off with some sort of disk cutter and made off with the caravan. The offending vehicle was a silver/light coloured 4x4 with an aluminium back. This took place between 13:45 and 14:30 on Sunday 12th October.

Much Dewchurch

At 14:40 on the 11th of October, two youths were seen to cause damage to a water pipe at a educational premises in Much Dewchurch.

Wormelow

There has been two incidents of criminal damage at a property in Wormelow. Both incidents happened during the hours of darkness and both times vehicles were attacked.

Positive Policing

Police attended a property in Llandinabo on crime enquiries and discovered a cannabis factory. £5000 worth of drugs were located.

In an unrelated incident two persons were dealt with for possession of drugs in Allensmore.

PCSO 6993 Kevin Powell

Hereford Southside and Rural Safer
Neighbourhood Team
South Wye Police Station

kevin.powell.c6993@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

On November 28th. Alan Clarke will give an illustrated talk on 'The Isles of Scilly'.

The Annual Social takes place on Wednesday, December 3rd.

All meetings take place on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. in Little Birch Village Hall. John Bryant 01981 540316.

Little Birch Village Hall management Committee

Whist Drive

Our next Whist Drive is on Tuesday 11 November

at Little Birch Village Hall. We shall start at 7.30pm. The entrance fee is £2.00. Excellent prizes and refreshments will be available.

All are most welcome including new members and those returning.

Christmas Prize Bingo

This will take place on Thursday December 4th in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30. There will be lots of good prizes and refreshments. Come along, have a good time and try to win something for Christmas!

Book Exchange

The next Book Exchange will be on 15th November not the 12th as stamped in books. Sorry for the error. We look forward to seeing regulars and anyone else who would like to join us on that Saturday morning 10-12 am. A charge of £1 is made towards hall hire and refreshments.

Little Birch Parish Field

The Parish Field is a registered common that was neglected for many years. In the past year it has been tided up, planted with wild flowers, fenced and a bench seat installed. In addition a time capsule was placed under the concrete slabs in front of the bench seat and a similar bench seat installed near to the village hall entrance.

The work was completed by a group of volunteers led by Alison Clarke. It was financed by profits from the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and donations. No Parish Council or Village Hall money has been spent on it.

It is expected that volunteers will continue with maintenance but some professional help will be required from time to time, for example, with tree lopping. The Parish Council has been asked to include the cost of this in future precepts.

Local News

A warm welcome to Much Birch to **Andy and Elizabeth Stevenson** who have just moved into Far End, Holly Bush Lane. Andy is a retired Prison Officer and Elizabeth is a more or less retired teacher of English to Foreign Students. They have moved here from Longhope and have a married daughter with 5 year old twins living in Raglan and a son who would like to move to this locality. We wish them a long and happy retirement here and look forward to them participating in village activities.

We are pleased to hear that **Margaret Blythe** of 36 Tump Lane is home again after an operation in

Birmingham and we wish her a speedy recovery. A very warm welcome is extended to **Kate and Alan Yeates** who have recently moved into Foxglove Cottage, Parish Lane and to **Tracey Stead and Roger Boulanger** who are the new occupiers of Windswept Cottage in Parish Lane. We trust that both will settle quickly into the community and be happy in their new homes. Congratulations are sent to **Leslie Beare and Laura** (nee Crum) who were recently married at Christchurch, Llanwarne and we trust they will enjoy many years of happiness together. Several residents have under gone surgery recently and it is good to hear that **Selby Lloyd and Margaret Blythe** have now returned home and we wish them both and any others, a speedy recovery.

As reported last month, **Jean Mason** sadly died in the County Hospital on 13th September, aged 88 years. Jean was brought up with 5 brothers and a sister in Stourbridge, West Midlands. This was a difficult time for large families as in the 1920's Depression, money was very scarce and families had to 'make do and mend' and clothes were usually handed down to younger children. It was an outlook which Jean never lost and constantly reminded all the family and friends that 'They never threw anything away'. In fact, the family described her as a real 'hoarder'.

Jean was married to Dennis and came to live in King's Thorn with their 2 sons, Jonathan and Stephen some 50 years ago and Sarah was born a few years later. They placed a huge emphasis on family life and surrounded the children with so much love that none of them were in a hurry to leave home. Finally, partners came along and pastures new beckoned and one by one they left 'Burcot' to start new lives.

Jean was a very sociable person and would engage in conversation with anyone she met and many a friendship was forged in this way. She loved cooking and caring for people and many visitors over the years and insisted that a piece of homemade cake and cup of tea were enjoyed before they departed. Dennis and Jean looked after their neighbours who were poorly for over 10 years, taking them a hot meal every day and making sure they were comfortable.

Other friends in King's Thorn were treated in the same way when they were ill or could not cook for themselves. Christmas time was special and year on year, Jean made mince pies and over time,

some 8 or 9 thousand were cooked and distributed to residents in the community. Dennis and Jean also delivered Meals on Wheels for over 10 years. They also loved to cycle around the area and often finished at Lock's Garage for an ice cream. When Jean found cycling uphill was becoming too much, Dennis fixed her up with a motorised assist unit.

After the death of a close friend, Jean worked with **Jean Wylor-Owen** in St. Michaels Hospice shop as a volunteer for over 25 years which was recognised by the charity with an article in the Hereford Times. She also did a 'sponsored slim' and raised over £1800 for the Hospice.

Jean worked as a school dinner lady and later as a playground watcher at Much Birch School with Margaret, Jean, Shirley and Beryl for some 20 years or so, a job she thoroughly enjoyed as she befriended many children who then remained in contact as they grew up. Many of them in turn had their own children who came to the School and so Jean befriended another generation.

As many will know, another of Jean's hobbies was shopping and she would walk from one end of Hereford to find the best price for a particular item. When she could no longer catch a bus, Carmaine took her to town on Saturdays and later, Derek and Kath took her on Wednesdays,

When Dennis became ill, Jean looked after his every need with the utmost care and was most upset when her arthritis became so severe that she could no longer cope and he moved into Charnwood.

She visited him there on most days. After 63 years of happy marriage, Dennis died about 3 years ago and Jean was devastated, talked about him every day and looked forward to the time when they would be re-united. Both had a strong Christian faith and firmly believed in life after death and this supported them through testing times in their lives. They regularly attended Church and were very sad when deteriorating health forced them to give up, but Jean never missed 'Songs of Praise'!

Jean's passing leaves all who knew and loved her with sadness but also a legacy of lifetime community spirit, truly a hard act to follow.

The doctors and nurses gave Jean the utmost care over the last few years and donations in memory of Jean were divided between the Surgery and Much Birch Church.

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 2nd October at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Parish Council heard an update on the Much Birch Old Charities from Mr Dick Brimacombe, with details of how the Charities were originally set up, following bequests from local people, many years previously. The Parish Council also discussed recent road issues and a leaflet giving guidance about the responsibilities for ditch maintenance and drainage was circulated. There was a reminder to all to remember to clear up hedge trimmings after cutting the hedges as trimmings can lead to blocked gullies, drains and ditches and this can in turn exacerbate flooding issues.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 6th November 2014 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 The Wriggle, 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

Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall. November 18th is the Annual Meeting and in December we hold the Member's Christmas Celebrations. Visitors and potential new members are 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 November market takes place on 21st

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**, **Mr. G's** award winning chutney and preserves and a vegetable stall. 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.)

Notice: The December Market is to be held on Friday, 19th

Much Birch Community Hall

The 100 Club celebrates its 10th year in 2015

As Chairman of the Much Birch Community Hall Management Committee, I would like to thank those who have supported the monthly lottery over the last ten years. It has helped us greatly to develop and maintain the venue for use by the residents of Much Birch and surrounding areas, we are therefore proposing to continue to run the lottery during 2015 and are looking for support once again to further our work. We are seeking continued support from existing members but would also very much welcome new members to assist with our efforts.

We have so far, with the community's help in previous years, improved the car parking facilities, replaced the heating system, provided an

additional meeting room, installed double glazing, upgraded insulation to the roof space and walls, installed access ramps, provided new window blinds and most recently installed solar panels. We are now at the point where we need to upgrade the cloakroom and disabled facilities to meet present day standards and to improve the kitchen. At the same time it is opportune to improve the lobby area and to provide a further meeting room/office. This project, which will further contribute to the needs of the community, is in the planning stage and will require funds to be raised.

As in previous years the scheme is that twelve pounds purchases a single entry into the draw each month. Entries for more than one per month require a further twelve pounds for each additional entry. In recognition of the support given to the 100 Club for the last ten years as a fundraiser, we have decided to allocate A THIRD PRIZE EACH MONTH TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY.

An application form is available from me at the address below which hopefully you will return to me together with your payment before the end of December, after which your application will be acknowledged and your draw number/s will be allocated.

On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to express our thanks for your anticipated response and our best wishes for 2015.

The October draw took place on 12th October at Much Birch Community Hall at 11am and the results were as follows:

1st prize – No. 97 **Mrs C. Miller**, Little Birch

2nd prize – No. 96 **Mrs. M. Newman** Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 9th November 2014 at 11.15 am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John H.C. Jones Chairman

Much Birch Community Hall

Management Committee

Chelston Grange, Much Birch

Hereford HR2 8HR Tel: 01981 540980

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

Found

A ring was found in the Much Birch Churchyard on 7th October 2014. If you think you might be the owner please contact Churchwarden Sylvia Jones on tel: 01981 54098

Another in a series on Local Castles by John Kinross writes

We all know Kilpeck Church with its wonderful

carvings both outside and inside but few scramble up the motte and bailey to the castle next door, which still has two large wall fragments, which were excavated in 1997 (see Shoesmith, 2009 for details.) In Domesday Book, Kilpeck is the property of William Fitz Norman. The castle was in existence by 1124 and William's son Hugh, calling himself 'de Kilpeck' probably rebuilt the castle in stone. He had a chapel in the castle which he gave with the church to St. Peter's Monastery in Gloucester. His son Henry was fined by King Stephen for trespassing in Haywood Forest, a royal property. Henry died in 1204 leaving a son under age and a widow, Juliana. She gave King John a palfrey and 50 marks so she could now marry whom she chose. Alas, the King chose William Fitz Warren for her as a second husband and William de Cantilupe, her son's ward, looked after the castle. Hugh, when attaining his majority, became custodian of the Royal Forests of Herefordshire. He left two daughters, Isabella who married William de Walerund, a supporter of King Henry III and now the castle owner. The eldest, Joan, married Philip Marmion, hereditary champion of England. Robert, Isabella's son, left the castle to his nephew, Alan de Plokenet (also spelt Plugenet) a competent soldier, who managed to cultivate part of Haywood Forest, hence the name Alansmore (Allensmore) which we know today as a parish. De Plugenet also obtained an advowson of the grant of Lugwardine and the chapels of Hentland, St. Weonards, Llangarron and Little Dewchurch. Alan's son, another Alan, obtained a charter for a weekly market and annual fair at Kilpeck (perhaps the two wrestlers church sculpture and other fair-like images date from this period.) The castle then passed to the Earls of Ormonde, devout Lancastrians. The fifth Earl was captured at Towton (1467) and beheaded. King Edward IV then granted the castle to Sir William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who was captured at Edgecote (1469) and beheaded by the Duke of Clarence. The castle then passed to the sixth Earl, who died en route to Jerusalem and after passing to the Boleyn family, one of whom married James St. Leger, it passed to the Pyes of the Mynde in Much Dewchurch. Sir William Pye, a Royalist, garrisoned the castle for the King but he became an hostage when Col. Birch captured Hereford, so the castle was slighted and the owners of the Mynde exchanged it for some other property with the Clive family in 1859.

Light up a Life This Winter with St Michael's Hospice

'Light a Life'

This year, St Michael's Hospice is joining with 22 local venues to enable families and friends to come together to remember and celebrate the lives of their loved ones. We would like to invite you to dedicate a light and, if you are able, to attend one of our special services or events listed below. Through your dedication, you will be illuminating the life of your loved one, and helping to provide support to local people who need the special care that St Michael's offers.

For more information please call the Family Support Team on 01432 851000.

Listen and you will help

Being a Listening Support Volunteer for St Michael's Hospice is a wonderful way of supporting people who have been bereaved.

If you are warm, caring and understand the experience of bereavement, we would love to hear from you.

You don't need any qualifications: we will provide you with all the necessary training.

For more information or to find out about our Open Days this autumn, please call Davina Tully on 01432 851000 or email dtully@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

Church Services in November

Nov.2nd 11am L.Birch CW Communion

Nov.9th 9.15am M.Birch Remembrance & Communion
10.55 L.Birch Remembrance at War memorial followed by Morning Worship.

Nov.16th. 10.30am Benefice Service at Much Dewchurch

Nov.23rd 9.15am M.Birch Matins
11am. L.Birch Family Worship

Nov.30th 9.15am M.Birch CW Communion
11.am Fawley Chapel BCP Communion.

Rubbish Collection

General rubbish collections change from November 2014 to alternate weekly with general rubbish being collected on one week and recycling collected on the other. Collection days may change and your recycling week may also change so please ensure you check the information delivered with your new bin or check the council website for more details

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/bincollections

And Finally, Pilot Licence

A young lady walked into a supermarket and on her way round she saw the man who had his wicked way with her the previous evening, after they had met in a pub. He was stacking washing powder boxes onto shelves.

"You lying toad," she yelled, "last night you told me that you were a stunt pilot".

"No" he said, " I told you that I was a member of the Ariel display team."