



# Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury.

November 2015. First published 1977.

## Little Birch and King's Thorn History Group Wartime Escapes in Eastern Europe

Dr. Michael Davies' father "DT" Davies has had a long and interesting life, not least during World War II. He was captured in the Battle of Crete before escaping 5 times in Crete, then Austria, Hungary and finally Yugoslavia. He had never spoken much about this until recently. BBC Wales became aware of his wartime experiences and when Mike and his 2 brothers accompanied their father on a tour of reminiscence in Europe, the cameras followed them.

The result was a film which was shown on BBC Wales and is now available to us.

We are showing this film (in Welsh but with clear English sub-titles) in **Little Birch Village Hall on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30.**

"DT" is now 95 years old and still leads an active life in Wales. He is disappointed that he will not be able to attend the showing of the film but Mike is expected to be there. Do come along and see this fascinating and moving film, hear more from Mike about the recent trip and what he knows of what his father experienced and endured 70 years ago.

Entry will be £3.00 to include light refreshments

## Church Services in November



- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Nov 1st.  | 11am. LBirch BCP Communion<br>6.30pm MBirch All Souls Service  |
| Nov.5th.  | 9.15am MBirch Remembrance and Communion<br>11am LBirch Remembrance Service and Morning Worship       |
| Nov.15th  | 9.15am MBirch CW Communion<br>11am LBirch CW Communion   |
| Nov.22nd. | 9.15am MBirch Matins<br>11am LBirch Family Worship   |
| Nov 29th. | 10.30am MBirch CW Communion Advent Sunday<br>6.30pm Much Dewchurch Archenfield Group Advent Service. |

## Diary Dates

### October 2015

- 24<sup>th</sup> Book Exchange Old Methodist Chapel
- 28<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club
- 31<sup>st</sup> LB Church Autumn Workday

### November 2015

- 5<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Event
- 10<sup>th</sup> Whist Drive LBVH
- 12<sup>th</sup> Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
- 14<sup>th</sup> Promise Auction MBCH
- 17<sup>th</sup> WI MBCH
- 21<sup>st</sup> Book Exchange Old Methodist Chapel
- 21<sup>st</sup> Flicks in the Sticks Matinee MBCH
- 25<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club LBVH
- 26<sup>th</sup> Demonstration Flower Arranging for Christmas MBCH
- 27<sup>th</sup> Village Market MBVH

### December 2015

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Bingo LBVH
- 9<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club Annual Social LBVH
- 12<sup>th</sup> Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
- 21<sup>st</sup> Christmas Craft Fair

Please send copy for the December Newsletter to [birchesnews@gmail.com](mailto:birchesnews@gmail.com) or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.

—by **18th November** please.



## **LOCAL NEWS**



It is good to welcome back Bryony and Michael Connolly with Rosa and Ceiran after a few years away at St. Weonards. They will be moving into 'Lyndhurst', Tump Lane in the near future. A warm welcome is given to another 3 families to King's Thorn / Little Birch. The KYARI family have recently moved into Upper Wrigglebrook Cottage with parents Delia and David and teenagers, Sioned and Davidd. Denise and Peter REES are planning to move into 'Withycombe', Little Birch with their dog, Barney, in the next few weeks. Nick and Christy Janes have moved into 'Stoneleigh' on Barrack Hill with their two young sons, OLIVER and WILLIAM. We trust that they will all soon settle into this community and be happy in their new homes.

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Our sincere Thanks are given to Rosemary and Tony Grubb who have delivered the Newsletter and Parish Magazines in their area for the last 15 years or so. Tony and Rosemary have been quite poorly this year and have decided to 'retire' from this duty and we wish them well for the future. We are pleased that Jackie Harris has kindly taken on this task.

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We are very sad to record the death of John Evans of Castle Pool Cottage and a full tribute will be given next month.

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Similarly, we are sad to learn of the death of Mollie Grabham of Orcop in a fire at her home. She was the sister of Mrs. Nellie Farmer of Higginswell Cottage.

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**New Patient Group at Much Birch Surgery** meets every other month with one of the GP's and the Practice Manager. to discuss matters which are important to the wellbeing and health of all our patients and to take action where necessary.

**Get involved and have your say: make sure your views matter**

**Let's get Started**, One of the first jobs is to improve communication between patients and the Surgery and to publish details of all the services available in Herefordshire and how to access them. See more at [www.mypg.co.uk](http://www.mypg.co.uk) and others which already have or are planning Patient Participation Groups as required by the NHS. Comment forms are available in the waiting room at Much Birch Surgery.

## **THE FUTURE OF THE POOR'S ACRE, HOLLYBUSH LANE, MUCH BIRCH**

In 1786 an unknown benefactor donated an acre of land known as the Poor's Acre to the Parish of Much Birch to be administered by the Overseer. Responsibility was passed to the Parish Council when it was set up in about 1895. When the Charity Commission was started in the early 1960s a Charity was registered with the working name of the Much Birch Old Charities incorporating 3 linked Charities, the Joseph Cooke Charity, the Poor's Acre Charity and the Margaret Drew's Charity.

The Poor's Acre is an acre field on the North side of Hollybush Lane between "Red House" and "Knockraheen". It has been let to Bigglestone Farm at least since 1936.

The Trustees have been advised that there is a reasonable possibility of obtaining Planning Permission for a house on 1/3rd of an acre on the road side of the Poor's Acre and that they would be negligent of their legal responsibilities as Trustees if they did not pursue this opportunity. Accordingly they have appointed Solicitors and Land Agents to submit to the Herefordshire Council an outline Planning Application within the next few weeks. If Planning is obtained the Building Plot would be sold and the proceeds devoted to the benefit of the Much Birch Community over the long term by the Charity.

For further details contact Dick Ph: 01981 540677  
Dick Brimacombe and Rev. Mark Johnson, Trustees

## Midlands Air Ambulance Charity in The Herefordshire Community

The team at Midlands Air Ambulance Charity is inviting Herefordshire groups and societies, who want to learn more about the life saving work of the organisation, to get in touch to request an inspiring talk or presentation.

To find out more about Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and to book a talk or presentation by Mary, visit [www.midlandsairambulance.com](http://www.midlandsairambulance.com), find the charity on Facebook or Twitter, or call the team on 0800 8 40 20 40. A small donation to support the ongoing work of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity is welcomed.

**"Politeness" has become a rather old fashioned concept in our "modern society". But there is an organisation who still promote those values and would welcome your support. Originally the "Polite Society" and now renamed "The National Campaign for Courtesy", the aims are to fight obscenity, selfishness and greed and to promote good manners, respect (for yourself and others) and rejection of anti-social behaviour.**

**If you are interested in learning more about this please visit our website [www.campaignforcourtesy.org.uk](http://www.campaignforcourtesy.org.uk) or telephone Peter Foot 020 8330 3707**



## Meetings, Fundraising and Activities

### King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club



Mr. Maurice Bracher will give an illustrated talk on 'Plants for Picking' at the next meeting on Wed. 25th. November at 7.30pm at Little Birch Village Hall. Mr. Bracher has many years of experience on this topic as he is an erstwhile Head Gardener at Burford House.

The Annual Social takes place on Wed. Dec. 9th at LBVH at 7.30pm with the usual fayre of Cottage Pie and Apple Pie. Tickets will soon be available from Committee Members.

John Bryant 01981 540316

### Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall. The November meeting will be the AGM and the December meeting the member's Christmas evening. Visitors and potential new members are welcome. Please contact Gillian, 01981 540080 or Caroline, 01981 540422 for more details.

### Much Birch Village Market

Much Birch Village Market takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month in Much Birch Community Hall between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

***The November market is on the 27th. The December Market is on the third Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>.***

Stalls include award winning suppliers Moor Meals, who bring meat, ready meals and pies: Llandinabo Farm, with meat, cheese, cooked ham etc: Mr. G's award winning preserves: a Fair trade stall: Honey: The Great British Meatbox should be with us together with two new craft stalls.

Craft stalls include silver jewellery, knitted goods and embroidered cards and gifts (orders for special cards can be taken, just in time for Christmas).

Mark has worked hard to find new suppliers so let us support him in this local event.

If you would like to find out more please contact Mark on 01432 278026

All information is correct at the time of going to press.

### **PROMISE AUCTION**

***SAT 14th Nov, 7.30pm, MBCH  
Your chance to bid for Rev Mark  
Great selection of lots,  
Light refreshments and raffle***

***In aid of both MBCH development and the  
horribly crumbly Tower.***



You are invited to a

# Demonstration of Flower Arrangements For Christmas



by  
**Sandra Snell**  
of The Flower House  
Ross-on-Wye

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Much Birch Community Hall**  
**Prompt Start 7.30pm**

Tickets £5.00 to include light refreshments from

Tel: 01981 540980 or 07787532720

## FLICKS IN THE STICKS at Much Birch Community Hall

Thursday 12th November 7.30pm –

### THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING 12A

The Theory of Everything chronicles the life story of the Astro Physicist Stephen Hawking. Studying at Cambridge, Hawking was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, and given 2 years to live. The film centres heavily on the issues that affect Hawking and his wife Jane, as the condition intensifies, and adds more and more pressure to their home life. Redmayne's physical depiction of the World renowned Scientist is truly remarkable, and his praise for this role is wholly deserved.

Saturday 21st November 2.30pm Matinee -

### SEAN THE SHEEP MOVIE U

In this expanded adventure, fluffy troublemaker Shaun and his pals decide to take the day off. That would be fine, except they don't bother to tell the Farmer where they're going, causing no end of trouble and leading to the poor, put-upon bloke being carted off. Shaun and co. must travel to the confusing, chaotic city to help return everyone safely to the green, green grass of home.

Coming up in December - our Christmas Special...

Saturday 12th December 6.30pm -

### THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Come along and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this classic film – watch, sing and dress up if you like!



Refreshments including hotdogs available from 7pm  
**Tickets £4 (£3 under 16s)**

Tickets available in advance or on the door –  
for further info or to book tickets  
please email [bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com](mailto:bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com)

For further information about films and screenings visit  
[www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk) (online booking available!)

## Special Remembrance Event at The Millennium Green, Tump Lane, Much Birch

From Rosemary Rigby MBE and Keith James

### The Rosemary Rigby Millennium Green

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 a.m. we will gather at the Liquid Amber Tree, planted last year to commemorate the start of World War One.

The pupils of Years 5 & 6, aged 9-11, from Much Birch C of E Primary School, accompanied by their Head Teacher Mrs Bernadette Davies and Mrs Sasha Davidson will lay a wreath of poppies in special remembrance of the great sacrifice made for all of us.

The Revd Mark Johnson will again be with us with words of encouragement and understanding. Also to be with us Frederick Pearson, Drum Major with the Epping Forest Pipe Band. He will lay a wreath in grateful memory of Violette Szabo GC.

All are most welcome to this act of remembrance. If anyone would care to place a little cross or wreath to their greatly missed and love one – it would be just perfect.

**Rosemary Rigby MBE and Keith James**

#### Found

1. Small **gold ring** with single stone near to Fernleigh
2. Pair of prescription **sunglasses** on an outside village hall window ledge.

Contact Sue Jones 01981 540682



## Little Birch Village Hall Committee Newsletter Notices

### Community Book Exchange/Lending Library.

The monthly Book Exchange has now settled into its new home at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall with all attending thoroughly enjoying the new venue. Our next meeting will be on the morning of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Chapel 10am – 12pm and our November meeting will be on November 21st 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 and refreshments.



### 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 November at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at 7.30 pm, and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

### Christmas Bingo

Our ever popular prize bingo returns for Christmas on Thursday 3rd December eyes down at 8pm. This is always a thoroughly enjoyable evening and has become a firm Christmas tradition. Great prizes and refreshments are available. We look forward to seeing you.

### Advance notice -- Christmas Craft Fair

We will be holding a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 21st December at the Village Hall. Full details will follow next month. If you would like to

book a table to sell your own crafts this will cost just £5. To book, please contact Sue Jones on 01981 540682 before November 7th.

### Advance notice - New Year's Eve Party

As always, Little Birch Village Hall is the place to be on New Year's Eve. This year we have Live music and a Disco with DJ Dave Harding, 8pm till late. Light refreshments and bar. Tickets available from 1st November for just £8 (Please note. £10 after 10th December!) To purchase your tickets, please contact: Sue 01981 540682 Diane 01981 540401 Jackie 01981 541027 Robyn 01981 540264

### Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday

We are still looking for suggestions and volunteers for our celebrations to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday next June. Please contact Sue Jones on 01981 540682

### Polite Reminder – Dog Mess

Whilst we are grateful that dog walkers scoop and bag their pets mess, please do not use the outside dustbins at the village hall to dispose of these little goody bags. The bin bags have to be manually moved to the roadside for collection by our volunteers and having to deal with small bags of poo is not a pleasant task.



Thank you

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

### Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The August draw took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in Much Birch Community Hall at 11am and the results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> prize – No 36.... Mrs M. Newman, Much Birch

2<sup>nd</sup> prize - 6... Miss E. Vaughan-Williams, Little Birch

3<sup>rd</sup> prize – No. 49... Mrs. M. Baldwin, Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall. John Jones Promoter

John Jones—Promoter

## South Hereford Rural Police Briefing



### **Much Birch**

0442S 080915 On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September between 09:00 and 16:30 a bungalow was broken into causing damage. Money and jewellery were stolen from the property.

### **Harewood End**

0287S 060915 On 6<sup>th</sup> September a member of the public reported for the last two months a vehicle has been parking up in the same spot for 4-5 hours at a time a couple of times a week. The informant was advised to call back when the vehicle was there, which they did. A unit was deployed and smelt Cannabis upon arrival. A vehicle search was conducted and drugs were found, the driver was also arrested for being under the influence of drugs whilst driving.

### **Kingstone**

0169S 050915 between 19:00 4<sup>th</sup> September and 08:00 5<sup>th</sup> September a shed has been broken into causing damage and once inside have stolen a Karcher pressure washer. Previous thefts ref 0300S 030915, overnight of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> August and overnight 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> September at the same address where a generator, a leaf blower and a single lifting chain have also been stolen.

### **Wormelow**

0364S 010915 On 1<sup>st</sup> September it was reported a trailer full of wood has been found outside a property and recovered for safe keeping. PCSO Anderson linked this to OIS 0416S 020915 below.

0175s 250915 Overnight 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> September a Pro Dem 306NL Breaker has been removed from a digger and stolen

### **.St Weonards**

0416S 020915 on 2<sup>nd</sup> September it was reported a trailer full of logs was stolen from outside a property between 08:00 and 12:30 1<sup>st</sup> September. PCSO Anderson linked this to OIS 0364S 010915 above.

### **Wormbridge**

0572S 310815 On 31<sup>st</sup> August Between 17:30 and 18:30 a Silver 4x4 vehicle was taken from a driveway. The keys were left in the ignition.

### **Marlas**

0280s 220915 between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September freshly planted plants were stolen from a garden. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> incident of plant thefts at this property.

### **Rotherwas**

0550s 200915 Between 12:00 19<sup>th</sup> September and 10:00 20<sup>th</sup> September at a unit on Rotherwas Industrial Estate has been subjected to damage. Two windows have been smashed. A tin of paint has been thrown and many items have been smashed, including chimney pots and a glass table.

If you have any information regarding any of the above you can contact Hereford Police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999. Please be aware that any information provided within this letter is to inform you of incidents of note and to request possible assistance. We do not want to worry you in anyway. Any incidents stated are infrequent and spread about a wide area. Herefordshire is a safe place to live!

Your nearest public service counter is at Hereford Police Station, Bath Street, Hereford, HR1 2HT:

Herefordshire Road Safety Hotline  
01432 364582

Website: [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

Regards Lowri ANDERSON

PCSO 40247 Southwye Safer Neighbourhood Team

**Remember that emergency lines are for emergencies ONLY.**

**P—phone 999 ONLY if**

**O—offenders are nearby**

**L—life is at risk**

**I—injury caused or threatened**

**C—crime in progress**

**E—everything else call 101**

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](mailto:muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk) 14th October 2015

**PARISH MEETING** – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting heard about local issues and there was a reminder that Much Birch Parish is considering undertaking a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Anyone interested in taking part in this or just wanting to find out more about it, then please contact Cllr Steve Turner at the address details published below.

A seasonal reminder about bonfire party/firework safety, ten tips to help you enjoy your celebrations (source: RoSPA, safer fireworks)

- Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.**
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.**
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.**
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.**
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.**
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit.**
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.**
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.**
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.**
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be an Ordinary Meeting and this will be held on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 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.

#### **Little Birch Parish Council Website**

***Thanks to Councillor Ben Roberts the Parish Council has a new Website. It includes agendas and minutes of meetings as well as this newsletter and other local information. Parishioners who register on the site will promptly receive email alerts as new items are added.***

#### **Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-**

**Cllr Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail [thecoops@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecoops@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](mailto:turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com) and Tel. 01981 540090

**Cllr Andrew Crum** Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail [a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com) Tel. 01981 540002

**Cllr Tim Jones** Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail [tjsj@me.com](mailto:tjsj@me.com) Tel. 01981 540242

**Cllr Ben Roberts** Lynwood, Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, HR2 8AR [b3nroberts@gmail.com](mailto:b3nroberts@gmail.com) Tel. 01981 540100

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](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

You can also find us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>