

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

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

March 2016. First published 1977.

# The Castle Inn

Little Birch

Re-opening

# Friday 18th March

From 6.30 pm
Traditional Ales
Good Pub Grub available
All Welcome

# Restaurant

will open Saturday
19th March



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#### **Church Services in March**



Sun. 6th 11am. LBirch CW Communion

Sun. 13th 09.15 MBirch Family Communion 11am LBirch Morning Worship

Sun. 20th. Palm Sunday

10.30am Benefice Service
Benefice Procession with donkey
from LBirch Church to MBirch Church

for Communion Service.

Sat. 26th 7.30pm MBirch Easter Vigil

Sun. 27th. Easter Day

09.15 MBirch Communion 11am LBirch Communion

## **Diary Dates**

**February** 

24<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club LBVH

27<sup>th</sup> Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

March

2<sup>nd</sup> LB Parish Council LBVH

4<sup>th</sup> Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

8<sup>th</sup> Whist Drive LBVH

8<sup>th</sup> MB Parish Council AGM MBCH

12<sup>th</sup> Book Exchange Old Methodist Chapel

15<sup>th</sup> WI MBCH

17<sup>th</sup> Easter Prize Bingo LBVH

18<sup>th</sup> Lent Lunch LBVH

18<sup>th</sup> Village Market MBCH

19<sup>th</sup> LB Churchyard clear up

30<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club AGM LBVH

April

1st LB Village Hall Quiz LBVH

9<sup>th</sup> Ivory Duo MBCH

12<sup>th</sup> Evergreen Club Outing

19<sup>th</sup> WI Open Meeting MBCH

21<sup>st</sup> Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

#### Poppy Appeal 2015

We as a group of Much Birch, Little Birch and Much Dewchurch raised £1828.79 in total. As the new coordinator for this district I would like to extend my gratitude on behalf of myself and the National Poppy Appeal for the generosity of everyone who helped raise this fantastic amount.



Thank you again, Lin Bridges

Please send copy for the April 2016 Newsletter to birchesnews@gmail.com or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.

-by <u>18th March</u>please.

#### **LOCAL NEWS**



Congratulations go to all the staff at Much Birch Surgery which was rated 54th out of 7708 surgeries in England in a recent patient survey. The surgery was also rated in the highest category for Herefordshire. Which we all knew anyhow! So well done again to doctors, nurses, receptionists and pharmacy staff.

It is sad to record the death of Mary Martin an erstwhile resident of this community. Mary lived in turn at Waterloo House, King's Thorn and then moved with her elderly parents to Glenaire in Little Birch. She had 2 step sons, the late Bill and Jim, who maintained ambulance vehicles at the depot going into Hereford, along with her own daughter, Clair. She was brought up on a smallholding in Bredwardine while her father worked on the Moccas Estate. She worked extremely hard for long hours as was common in those days. Her parents grew vegetables, made butter and preserves and Mary took these to market in Hay on Wye once per week. When her father retired they moved into Waterloo after her husband became a widower, with 2 sons.

Mary again worked very hard after the death of her husband by cooking and cleaning for the late Col. and Mrs. Howorth as well as looking after her parents and the family. The whole family moved to 'Glenaire' in the late 1960's and Mary also cooked Sunday lunch and walked with it to her relations at Bower Cottage on 'The Thorn'. She was very industrious in the garden, having large flower beds in the front and extensive vegetable plots at the rear of the bungalow. She was very active in Little Birch Church and was President of the WI for several years. She moved to Churchdown near Gloucester in the late 80's and delighted in visits from Clair's children, Ellen and Max. She died on Dec. 29th aged 91 years and her funeral service was held at Gloucester Crematorium Chapel on Friday, 22nd January and we send our sincere sympathy to Clair who looked after her mother so well in the last few years, to husband Ian, grandchildren, Ellen and Max, and to Leighton Davies, their father. Mary was held in great affection by erstwhile neighbours and the family.

Coincidentally, the death is announced of John Jeremiah of the same address as the late Mary Martin in Little Birch, at the age of 75 years. John was for many years a self employed carpenter and builder who could 'turn his hand' to many aspects of the building trade. He has been unwell for several years but was looked after wonderfully well by his wife, Diane, to whom we send our sincere condolences. His funeral will be held at the Gwent Crematorium on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Feb at 10am. Donations in memory of John will go to the Alzheimers Society.



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The death was announced of Mr. Eric Dee, erstwhile of Tump Lane, Much Birch and lately of Charnwood Residential Home in Much Dewchurch on 31st January. A full tribute will be given in the April Newsletter.

Sadly the death of Chris Powell on Sun 7th February was announced and his funeral service took place at St. David's, Much Dewchurch on Wed. 17th February. Chris was well known locally and in Hereford as a lawyer with Beaumonts in Offa Street. He was a very modest man and a poem read at his funeral service reflected his character most aptly.

#### The measure of a man.

Not how did he die but how did he live? Not what did he gain but what did he give? These are the things that measure the worth Of a man, as a man, regardless of birth.

Not what was his station, nor what was his creed But did he befriend those really in need? His strength for his children, his love for his wife, These are the units that measure a life.

Not what did the piece in the newspaper say But how many will miss him now he's passed away This is a man, a father, a friend, A man who loved life, and is loved without end. Author unknown.

Chris will be sorely missed by so many friends as well as the family and we send to Meryl and the family our profound sympathies.

1st Much Birch Brownies (for girls aged 7-11 years)

Your local Brownie pack NEEDS you!!!

We currently have 8 spaces to fill and would like to invite you to come along and join our happy gang. First taster session FREE.

We meet on Monday nights 5.30-7.00 p.m.

For more information ring Katie Hodges 07794 769 931



# **YOGa** In Much Dewchurch at Steiner Academy. Mondays 6.00- 7.15

- Tension and stiffness?
- Back ache, backache, general aches and pains?
- · Difficulty sleeping?

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#### Meetings, Jundraising and Activities

#### **Much Birch WI**

Much Birch WI meet on the third Tuesday of each month in Much Birch Community Hall, just off the A49. The Hall is next door to the surgery and both are signed from the road.

Meetings begin at 7.30 pm.

March 15<sup>th</sup>: 'Decorating the Royal Barge'. The speaker will be Brenda Crump.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

A date for your diary: Our Open Meeting is on April 19<sup>th</sup> when the subject for the evening will be 'Celtic Pligrim: A walk from Iona to Lindisfarne – Me and my Dog'. The speaker is Rev Iain Skinner.

All are welcome to this meeting.

Please contact Caroline on 01981 540422 for further details

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#### **Much Birch Village Market.**

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

Please note; the March market has been moved forward by one week, to 18<sup>th</sup>, because Good Friday falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday.

For further information please contact Mark on 01432 278026 The March market

Please join us in supporting local suppliers of food and crafts.

#### **Institute of Advanced Motorists, Herefordshire**

IAM Herefordshire run Skill for Life courses, helping to develop safer driving, at Much Birch Community Hall four times a year.

Each course has three two hour evening sessions and includes accompanied drives, in your own vehicle, with one of our trained Observers, at times which are mutually convenient.

There will be a Driver Refresher Day on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> in the Hereford area, between 10am and 4pm. The Refresher Days are very popular so early booking is essential.

Everyone is invited to take a drive at some point during the day with one of our Observers, who will be pleased to offer advice and tips.

For further details or to make a booking, please contact Stella on 01432 840835 or email secretary@iam-herefordshire.org.uk

Many, many thanks to all who supported our planning application to build a modest home in Little Birch. We greatly appreciate it. We now look forward to building our home and remaining in the locality of Aconbury, where we have lived very happily for the past nine years.

George and Joyce Mikurcik

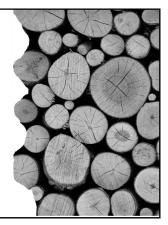
Apologies are tendered unreservedly to Lucy and David Cook and Mike Leigh for altering the words of their signed letter about the planning in Aconbury. This was a bad oversight and John Bryant takes full responsibility for failing to proof check the master sheets before printing.

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

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, 30th. March at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall to receive reports, elect officers and committee members and an outline of the 2016/7 programme.



John Bryant 01981 540316.

#### IN AID OF THE FABRIC FUND



# MUCH BIRCH CHURCH PRESENTS

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ABOUT YOUR OWN GARDENING
PROBLEMS.

ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 7-30P.M.

#### AT MUCH BIRCH COMMUNITY HALL.

ENTRY £6-50: to include a ploughmans' supper.

For tickets, Tel: 01981 540980,or 01989 563676

You are welcome to bring your own wine or drinks.

#### **Herefordshire Rural Hub**

**CIC** is a business support organisation for farming and rural businesses across



Herefordshire. Established in 2005, the Hub has grown from strength to strength and now has a reach to over 1,500 rural businesses.

Herefordshire Rural Hub has a history of being able to 'pull' support organisations together to work as a network for the greater good of the local businesses and farming community. The Hub can give access to business development opportunities and keeps businesses and individuals up to date with information on events, funding opportunities, and rules & regulations.

You can follow the Herefordshire Rural Hub on **twitter** via **@Hfds\_RuralHub** and on **Facebook** search Herefordshire Rural Hub. Website www.ruralhubspartnership.co.uk/herefordshire



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#### **Little Birch Village Hall Committee**

#### **Newsletter notices for March 2016**

#### **Whist Drive**

We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company at our monthly whist drive whatever your ability. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

#### Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next **Book Exchange** will be on the morning of **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March** at the **former Methodist Chapel 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.

#### **Easter Prize Bingo**

Eyes down at **8pm** on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March** for our annual Easter Prize Bingo.

This is always a thoroughly enjoyable evening with great prizes and refreshments available.

We look forward to seeing you there.

#### **Annual Little Birch Village Quiz**

Will you be crowned as a member of the winning team of the 2016 Little Birch Village Annual Quiz?

This year the quiz will be held at **7.30 pm** on **Friday April 1st**. (April Fool's Day!) Plenty of time to organise your team of 4. If you can't manage that number please come along as there will be others with whom you can join to make up a team.

Light refreshments during the interval.

To book your table or for further information, please contact Robyn Hodges on 540264.

#### **Events and Thanks**

#### **LBVH Committee Pancake Evening.**

This evening is always a popular social event and as usual many people from our villages came to enjoy pancakes with a variety of fillings. Mandy Williams was kept very busy cooking all evening until everyone was replete! It was lovely to see so many old friends and welcome some newcomers too. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Jackie Morley

#### **Camelot The Pantomime.**

Well done 'The Birches Dramatic Group', this year's panto was a delight. These annual productions are always good but Camelot was 'Excellent'.

The scenery, lighting and sound effects could not be faulted, the storyline flowed and was easy to follow. As for the cast, well!! From Evil Morgan la Fay to the minute Merlin (having drunk a potion to make him young again) they were all fantastic. It would not be a surprise to see some of them on our screens in years to come.

The younger members of the cast were obviously enjoying every moment and it showed. How lucky we are to have so much local talent enabling a small village hall group to put on such a magnificent show! Let's hope there are more to come.

The programme designed by Bob Chance was a work of literary art and the proceeds from their sale plus donations went to Black Marston School. A note of caution, do not try 'Merlin's secret remedy'! Jackie Morley.

Additional Note from LBVH committee.

We are sorry so many people were unable to obtain tickets for the panto (due to numbers in the hall being limited) However, there will shortly be a DVD available and anyone who would like one should contact

(01981) 541027

# Advance Notice. LBVH event to 'Celebrate the Queens' Birthday' Sunday 12 June 2016

The LBVH committee would like to plan a 'community celebration' (tea party/picnic ...other ideas?) for this occasion and would like to hear from anyone who could spare a little time and bring ideas to a small group who are about to start working on this 'Your community needs you so please get in touch. Your help will be much appreciated. Contact Sue Jones on **540682.** Thank you.

A date for your diary...



.....

#### **SUNDAY 12TH JUNE 2016**

#### At Much Birch Community Hall

Much Birch Community Hall are planning to have 'The Big Lunch' to celebrate the Queen's special birthday, on Sunday 12th June. As with previous years, we would love this to involve all of the local community. If you would like to help in any way with this event, whether it is with the planning, running the tombola or helping with refreshments, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Bryony Connolly (01981 540097) or Carole Chichester (01981 540095) or email bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com.

#### Coming soon.....

#### **Lent Lunch in Aid of Sightsavers International**

The annual Lent Lunch will take place on Friday, March 18th. from 12.30pm - 2pm. in Little Birch Village Hall. Menu includes a choice from 4 varieties of Soup, celery, cheese, tomato and French stick or brown roll and butter/olive spread.

Donations as usual will be sent to Sight Savers International. Please come and support this very worthy cause while enjoying a chat with others over a delicious bowl of soup

7<sup>th</sup> May - Plant Sale in Much Birch Community Hall.
Proceeds for the Church

12<sup>th</sup> May- <u>Summer Flower Arrangements</u> by Sandra Snell of The Flower House Ross-on-Wye in Much Birch Community Hall. Proceeds for the Hall

More details next month

#### The Evergreen Club

On **Tuesday, 12 April** we shall go to the old city of **Wells** for the day. We will stop for a coffee break on the way

#### Cost £13 (£15 for non-members).

#### The pick up times will be:

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.05
Much Birch Church bus stop	9.10
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.15
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.25
Fonteine Court - Ross	9.35

For enquiries or to book, please ring Bridget on **01981 540932** 

#### Reminder of AGM

This takes place at *Much Birch Community Hall on Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 2.30pm*. - followed by tea and biscuits.

#### **Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club**

The February draw took place on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30 am and the results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> prize – No 5 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - No. 65 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – No. 55 Mr. K. Davies Mrs. G. Wiseman Mr. C. Sherwood Much Birch King's Thorn Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones—Promoter

# FLICKS IN THE STICKS

at Much Birch Community Hall

#### BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

2016

Saturday 27th February, 2.30pm - SONG OF THE SEA PG

FLICKS

IN THE STICKS

#### Friday 4th March, 7.30pm - 45 YEARS 15

It's just one week before the 45th anniversary party of devoted couple Kate and Geoff (Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay) when he receives a letter out of the blue. The body of his exgirlfriend has been found perfectly preserved after falling into a glacier in the Swiss Alps 50 years earlier. The emotional fallout of the discovery puts untold strains on their relationship as Geoff lets his mind wander back to the past and Kate finds herself impotent in the face of his grief.

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Refreshments including hot dogs available from half an hour before film.

Coming soon ...

Thursday 21st April, 7.30pm - SPECTRE 12

Thursday 26th May, 7.30pm - THE LADY IN THE VAN PG

Tickets available in advance or on the door – for further info or to book tickets call 01981 540097 or email bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com

For further information about films and screenings visit www.artsalive.co.uk (online booking available!)

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#### Neighbourhood Development Plans for the 'Birches'

On Wednesday 17 February I was at a well attended evening called by Little Birch Council about **Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP).** Mrs Linda Wilcox, Chief Executive of Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) gave a presentation about the merits and process necessary to draw up an NDP. We also heard from Tony Priddle, Chair of our neighbouring parish of Callow and Haywood, who gave an enlightening idea of what's involved – as they are at the final stages of their own NDP. It is clear to me that now that Herefordshire Council

have adopted its 'Core Strategy', there will be more likelihood of further development in 'The 'Birches' As was shown recently by the amount of local interest in just one dwelling on Duchy land in Aconbury, which was finally approved after being referred to the full planning committee, we are all interested in 'planning', and how it affects us. This is a an important opportunity for all of us to influence, not only where (or not) we would like those homes to be sited, but also what types of buildings they might be. After approval by Herefordshire Council and its compatibility with their Core Strategy it will have legal status and therefore will have a large bearing on housing in this neighbourhood.

As Aconbury is a very small parish, without a council, it has been invited to join in with Little Birch to produce a joint NDP. A meeting for all its parishioners will be held very shortly and all Aconbury residents will receive notice.

We are all privileged to live in this very beautiful, rural part of South Herefordshire, in what is a very rural part of Britain and I believe it is for all of us to protect this environment for future generations. Please be sure you are part of your Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Michael Leigh Aconbury Resident

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#### MUCH BIRCH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

needs

#### **GOVERNORS**

Your local primary school needs two more governors to bring the board of governors up to full strength. We have a more specialized role vacant as a foundation governor. In this role there are specific requirements in relation to the school's particular character as a church school and the support and monitoring of the teaching of religious education throughout the school.

This is a role for a practising member of the Church of England.

The other vacancy has a more general role, one matching that governor's skills and experience outside school to what has to be achieved in school. Backgrounds in accountancy, buildings management, human resources, business management and education frequently make significant contributions to the work of the governing body.

The full governing body meets about six times each academic year and governors are expected to attend all such meetings. Additionally governors are involved in some other committee or working party activity as well as individual or group training. These are proactive and time- consuming roles which offer the simple reward of seeing a school continuing to develop and pupils reaching higher levels of attainment.

If you are interested, you are welcome to come and see us at work before you make any commitment. For further details please contact Reverend Mark Johnson on 01981 540390 or Nick Austin on 01432 870730.

#### **South Hereford Rural Police Briefing**

#### About your team

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods. Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us – in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

#### **WARNING**

Police forces have become aware of a fraud circulating targeting elderly and vulnerable members of the community.

Some older people have received telephone calls from a caller who purports to be from the GP surgery and is asking for an appointment to discuss the person's mobility needs. During the appointment, the older person is persuaded to buy mobility aids which are either unnecessary or inappropriate and always expensive.

If you receive a call like this, please check with your GP surgery first before agreeing to a visit.

Please can you pass this message onto any elderly family members and friends and make them aware. As always, you can speak to myself regarding this or any matter.

#### Kind regards

#### Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT West Mercia Police If you would like to receive this Briefing via email, please email herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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#### Your team

(Part of the Southside Team)

SGT Emma Freer 1348

PC Brian Hillstead 0397

PCSO Lowri Anderson 40247



#### Get in touch

**101** to talk to your local SNT or report a crime herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk www.westmercia.police.uk

Herefordshire Cops / @southsidecops Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

A <u>red Honda 420 Quad</u> has been stolen from a property off HAYWOOD LANE, HEREFORD.

If you are offered this quad or know anything

about the theft,

please call 101
The picture is a stock picture. The Quad has a few identifiable marks that would be identifiable to the owner.

The Quad was taken

sometime between the 16th Feb and 17th Feb



# **PILATES**

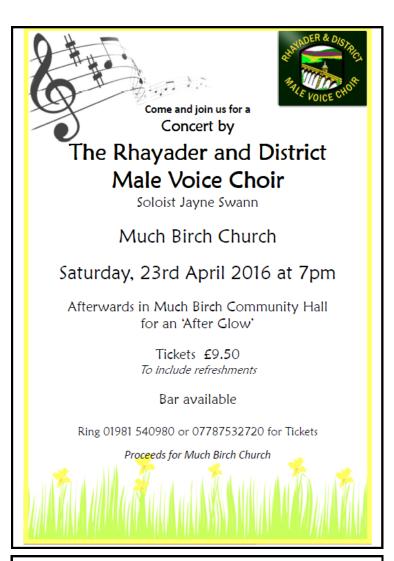
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Tel: 01432 840491 Email:alisonallan17@gmail.com



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#### **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

15th February 2016

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting heard about the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan Information Event to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Meeting would start at 7.30pm and refreshments would be available. A representative from the Planning Department at Herefordshire Council would be on hand to present some information and to answer questions on Neighbourhood Development Planning. It was the hope that people would decide to become involved with helping to shape the future of the Parish in relation to planning and related topics.



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The subject of <u>litter</u> in the parish was raised and there is to be a big push to clean up the country in honour of the Queen and her forthcoming 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Everyone can help by

a big push to clean up the country in honour of the Queen and her forthcoming 90" Birthday. Everyone can help by remembering to "take their litter home" or by using the bins, where provided, responsibly.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be an Ordinary Meeting and this will be held on **Tuesday 8th March 2016 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.

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

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

**Clir Steve Turner** (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail <a href="mailto:turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com">turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com</a> and Tel. 01981 540090

**Clir Andrew Crum** Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail <u>a.crum@btinternet.com</u> Tel. 01981 540002



Cllr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail tisi@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

**Cllr Ben Roberts** Lynwood, Kingsthorne, Herefordshire, HR2 8AR <u>b3nroberts@gmail.com</u> Tel. 01981 540100

Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX <a href="mailto:roisinburge@hotmail.com">roisinburge@hotmail.com</a> Tel. 01981 540724

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.

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