



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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

December 2016. First published 1977.

Winter Concert



**Birch Hall, Much Dewchurch
Saturday 26 November at 7.30pm**

Following on from the very successful *Born To Shine* concert in 2011, another evening of music in aid of *Save the Children* is coming to Much Dewchurch. Featuring two talented young professional musicians who both trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama: **Sandie Middleton** on piano, playing as a duo with **Matt Mockford** on flute. Matt will soon be leaving the country as he has been offered a position in the orchestra of the Bulgarian States Opera of Ruse.

They will perform French classical music, Mozart and folk arrangements. Also performing in the concert will be **Sam Vincent** (cello) currently studying at Wells Cathedral School, and **Shanti Egan** (piano) and **Alana Middleton** (violin) from Class 10. Poetry read by **Rowan Middleton**.

Venue - Birch Hall, Steiner Academy Hereford, Much Dewchurch, Hereford. HR2 8DL. Please contact Angela Middleton to book tickets: 01981 540 377 or ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk

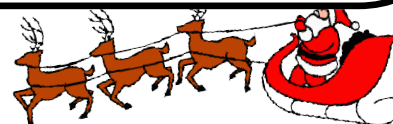
Diary Dates

November

- 25th Village Market MBCH
- 26th Winter Concert MDewchurch
- 29th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
- 30th Gardening Club LBVH

December

- 3rd Christmas Fayre MB School
- 5th Concert in Hereford (p13)
- 8th Bingo LBVH
- 9th Decorations Workshop MBCH
- 10th Book Exchange
- 13th Whist LBVH
- 16th Village Market MBCH
- 20th WI Meeting MBCH



Church Services November 2016-January 2017



27th Nov (Advent Sunday)	9.15am 11am	MBirch Morning Worship Llanwarne CW Communion
4th Dec	11am	LBirch CW Communion
11th Dec	9.15am 11am	MBirch CW Communion LBirch Morning Worship
18th Dec	9.15am 4pm	MBirch CW Communion LBirch Carols & Christingles
25th Dec	9.15am 11am	MBirch CW Communion LBirch Christmas Communion
1st Jan	11am	LBirch CW Communion

Please send copy for the January Newsletter to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.

—by 18th December please.

Our Congratulations to Matt Wilson of Church Field, Quarry Lane, Much Birch, on his marriage in July to Hattie Cook. They are busy modernising and extending Church Field including a Gymnasium as Matt has recently qualified as a Personal Trainer and will be working from home. We wish them a long and happy life together in Much Birch. Dick Brimacombe

Betty Bryant would like to Thank all those from the Surgery, Church and friends in the community and Ross on Wye who filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. She received 34 shoeboxes and these have been delivered to the warehouse at Three Elms.

LOCAL NEWS—December 2016



As reported earlier this year, Rogan McGilp of Little Birch won an award for the design and construction of a 'hot rod' for his younger brother, David, who suffers from Down's syndrome as well as other long term disabilities.

Rogan recently attended a prestigious dinner at St. James' Palace where he told his story in the presence of the Princess Royal, the patron of the Royal National Children's Foundation. The RCNF had supported Rogan to continue his studies while caring for David, and allowing him to continue the development of the 'hot rod' car, 'Attitude Adjustment', specially adapted to meet the needs of his brother. Well done! Rogan, what a heart warming story. Congratulations!

Congratulations are also sent to Christopher Rowan and Lauren Loughman who were recently married in Little Birch Church. Lauren is the daughter of Mark and grand daughter of Tim Loughman. Sadly in some respects, we say farewell to Tim this month as he is going to live in Hereford, having spent 50 years living in his cottage 'Rosemount'. Tim with others, re-roofed Little Birch Village Hall in the 1980's and we thank him for his work in the community, most of which has been unseen.

Bill Walker has had a successful hip operation and has recently announced his engagement, to which we send our good wishes on both counts.

As given in the last Newsletter, sadly again in many respects, the death of Sylvia Atkinson occurred on 15th October after a long illness. Her funeral took place at Little Birch Church on 27th October conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson. Sylvia was born on the 21st. February 1929 to William and Muriel Dale in Rotherham, with brothers Ken and David completing the family. She came to Hereford as a 14 year old when the family moved down to Litley Court, After finishing school, she became a 'milk tester' and found a soul-mate in Iris, who introduced her to the Young Farmers in Herefordshire and with her good looks, she became a very popular dance partner.

Sylvia married Clare who had been stationed in England with the Royal Canadian Air Force. On leaving the Canadian Air Force, Clare trained in farming at Cirencester and she went back to farming in a supporting role as a hard working wife and they had 4 children, Jane, Christopher, Jonathan and Rosalind. These in turn produced 7 grandchildren Melanie, Luke, Rhys, Ben, Evie, Charlotte and Nicholas and Sylvia and Clare encouraged all of them in their chosen careers.

Sylvia was a very talented and artistic lady herself and the windows of the Church displayed many of those talents. She was gifted in crafts and model making and skilful in her choice of plants and colours in her border gardening. She encouraged Jane and Ros to take part in the local pantomimes in the 1980's. Sylvia delivered Meals on Wheels with her good friend, Jill Richards, for many years and was also a keen member of the Much Birch WI. After the death of her father, Sylvia's mother came to live with the family who again' looked after her for some years.

Donations in thanks for Sylvia's life were given to Asthma UK and Little Birch Church. Sylvia's body was laid to rest in the churchyard with that of Clare who died 6 years earlier in 2010. She will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends as well as the Atkinson family, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

Andy and Sue Welcome you to **THE AXE AND CLEAVER** **Much Birch**



Excellent food served in our spacious Restaurant

SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH
On Wednesdays—2 courses
For £6.95

SUNDAY ROAST LUNCH
£10.95 for 2 courses—Bookings advised

Lovely Beer Garden with field for Touring
Caravans and Tents

Tel: 01981 540203

The untimely death of Christopher Wilden at the age of 53 years, shook the whole community. Chris died in Hereford hospital after a short illness.

He was born in Dec. 1962 as the second son to Gordon (John) and Joyce Wilden. He went to Much Birch School under the tutelage of the late Noel Lewis and then on to Haywood High School. On leaving, Haywood, he was apprenticed to William Powell, the builders. He was already prepared for the building trade as he and Michael, his older brother, helped out the late Jack Cox, who built a number of houses and bungalows on nearby plots. What it did show was that he was very skilful with his hands and was also good at maths. He developed an interest in motor bikes and cars from an early age and was very knowledgeable about engines and performance. His first car . a 3 wheeler car of the ' Fools and Horses' type tipped over very easily round the twisty lanes of Little Birch and many week ends were spent with plastic filler and repairs made to 'go off ' again. As he earned more money, he liked more sporty cars, the Escort RS2000 was his favourite. However, even that car had some close encounters with hedges and ditches over the years.

Having worked for William Powell's in the 80's and into the 90's, he then took a more lucrative job near Ashford in Kent near to where the Channel Tunnel emerged. He would work 5 days a week living in a caravan and would return to Herefordshire at the week ends and spend his money on the fast car. In the mid 1990's he met Deborah and they were later married. in due time

they were blessed with 2 children, Daniel and Olivia.

Unfortunately, the relationship did not flourish and they went their separate ways with Chris having the children. About this time, Chris broke his ankle which seemed to trigger a downward spiral for Chris and he never recovered that zest for life. He moved back to 'Austena' with his parents and just seemed to retreat into himself. Sadly his father died some two and a half years ago but Chris looked after his mother, Joyce, extremely well until a few weeks before he died.

His funeral took place at Hereford Crematorium on Friday, 11th November and was conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson. Chris's daughter Olivia read a poem and rev. Mark gave the tribute, from which these notes are duly acknowledged. Donations in memory of Chris were made to Much Birch Surgery. He will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends and we send to Joyce, Daniel and Olivia, together with brother Michael and sister Heather and their families our sincere sympathies.

We are also sad to report the death of Ian Day of Tump Lane who died in the County Hospital after a short illness and we send our sincere condolences to wife, Wendy, son Joshua and his family and to daughter, Sophia. Ian was only in his mid- fifties.

The death of Patricia Boswell also late of Tump Lane and Much Dewchurch has also been announced. We send to husband, Dave, and to daughter, Wanda, and son, Carl our sincere condolences.

We say a 'big Thank you' to Saul Jones who has delivered this Newsletter to 11 properties on the lower half of the Barrack Hill for many years and wish him well in the future.

Local donations by individuals for the Newsletter are also gratefully acknowledged.



HOLLYBUSH HIRE

Vintage Tea Set Hire

Woodfield, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HX

07989 854593 / 01981 541109

emmadeer@hotmail.co.uk

Tea Cups, Saucers & Tea Plates

Sandwich / Cake Plates

Teapots, Sugar Bowls & Milk Jugs

Cake Stands

Lanterns, Mirrors

MUCH BIRCH 100 CLUB FOR 2017

A continuing fundraiser towards the development of the Much Birch Community Hall

It is almost 12 years since the launch of the 100 club and we are proposing to run again during the next 12 months with the aim of raising more funds for the further development of the hall for the benefit of the communities of Much Birch and the surrounding areas and to meet the present needs and those of the future.

I would like to express a huge thank you to those people who have contributed over the years by subscribing to the club and I would like to extend an invitation to them and to the community at large to enrol in this next year's 100 club to help us to achieve the objective of the further development. I am pleased to say that Phase 1 of the building works is now underway with the laying of the foundations and brickwork to damp course level. Phase 2 will include provision of two additional activity/meeting rooms, an improved entrance lobby, an upgrade of the male and female toilets with the provision of separate facilities for disabled persons, and an upgrade to the kitchen.

We shall continue to seek grants but we will also need to raise funds locally. It is hoped that you will be able to support our efforts. Previous members will be contacted individually but new members are invited to contact me on tel: 01981 540980 for an application form to join.

On behalf of the Hall Management Committee I would like to express our thanks for your anticipated response and extend our best wishes for the festive season and for the year 2017.

John H.C. Jones
Chairman/Promoter

MUCH BIRCH COMMUNITY HALL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



WORKSHOP

With Sandra Snell

**Acclaimed Chelsea Show Exhibitor
of The Flower House, Ross-on-Wye**

**Make your own door wreath or table
centre arrangement under her guidance.**

Friday, 9th December 2016 at 7pm

In Much Birch Community Hall

**Tickets £12.00 to include all materials and
light refreshments**

available from Sylvia Tel: 01981 540980

**Proceeds for Much Birch Community Hall
Development Fund**

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for December 2016

Christmas Bingo

Eyes down at 8pm on Thursday 8th December for our annual Christmas Prize Bingo. 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.

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The Christmas Book Exchange will be on the morning of Saturday 10th December at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall 10am – 12pm.

Celebrate the festive season with a glass of sherry and a mince pie or piece of Stollen.

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

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire and refreshments.

Christmas 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 13th December at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at 7.30 pm and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Advance Notices for January 2017

Whist - 10th January

Little Birch Pantomime "Ali Baba & The Forty Thieves" 27th & 28th January

Christmas Fayre
Much Birch
Primary School

Raffle
Santa's Grotto
Gift Stalls

Cakes
Music
Kid's Crafts
Café
Games
and much more

Saturday 3rd December
11am-1pm

Free Entry

King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club



On Wed. Nov. 30th we welcome back Roger Umpleby for an illustrated talk on

A Plant Lovers view of New Zealand'

On Wed. 14th Dec. Our annual winter social.

Further details from John Bryant 01981 540316.

R&R FIREWOOD

Well seasoned hardwood

Cut to any size

Delivered to your door

STEPHEN or TARA

Tel: 01432 870282



People may recall a presentation in the past at the Village Hall and the DVD of my father's war experiences.

I mentioned that there would be an English edition to complement the Welsh one and would inform everyone who might be interested.

It has now been published and is called

"All for Freedom" by D T Davies.

Very best wishes,- Mike Davies

This book is available from Amazon and other book sellers. One review is below.... Ed

All for Freedom - A True story of escape from the Nazis
Paperback – published 10 Nov 2016

by [D.T.A. Davies](#) (Author), [Ioan Wyn Evans](#) (Author)

DT. Davies witnessed Nazi atrocities at first hand. Serving with the Royal Artillery, he was originally captured after the Battle of Crete in 1941. He spent three years as a prisoner of war, in Austria, then Hungary and finally at the barbaric concentration camp of Zemun, near Belgrade. These places were far removed from the rural Carmarthenshire where he was brought up, but their stench remains with him to this day. DT was awarded the Military Medal for his wartime service, but this account is no war film screenplay. There is no caricaturing or glamorizing, merely the faithful recording of events which still disturb and defy belief over 70 years on, but which also testify to the heroic resilience of the human spirit even in its darkest hours

December and January @ The Pilgrim Hotel

Ross Road, Much Birch, Herefordshire

Christmas Luncheons & Dinners

Available from December 1st – 23rd

	2 Courses	3 Courses
Lunch	£ 14.95	£17.95
Dinner	£ 16.95	£20.95

Xmas Murder Mystery Dinners

December Events now SOLD OUT

Extra Night Now Scheduled

Saturday November 26th

Professional Actors

3 Course Dinner, Death & Prizes
£37.50

January Murder Mystery Dates

Saturday January 21st & 28th

Professional Actors

3 Course Dinner, Death & Prizes
£35.00



Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch

Monday 5th 12th & 19th

2 Courses	3 Courses
£ 9.95	£13.95

Boxing Day Brunch

Leave the washing up to us!!

Served 11 am – 2.30pm
£14.95

Christmas Day Lunch

4 Courses

£59.95 Under 12 £29.95

New Year's Day Brunch

Leave the washing up to us
again!

Served 11 am – 2.30pm
£14.95

Booking Essential for all Events. Please contact Reception 01981 540742

'Polished'

NAILS AT THE LOFT

Manicures, Pedicures, Cracked Heel Treatments

Sculptured Acrylic Nail Extensions, OPI Gel Colour Polish (Last 2-3 weeks)

Beach Toes, Hollywood Toes, Toenail Restoration

GIFT VOUCHERS / PRINCESS VOUCHERS (Age 5+) AVAILABLE

15% HAPPY HOUR – TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 3-4PM

Senior Citizen Discounted Rates Available Every Tuesday

City & Guilds Qualified Nail Technician – OPI Salon Professional

Fully Insured – Beautiful Salon With A View!

Call Jacqueline on 07759131783 to make an appointment

(Situated at the end of The Pilgrim Hotel Car Park)

OPENING HOURS TUES – SAT 10am – 4pm (Evening appointments are available).

Report on the Dedication of Wormelow's War Memorial

At the Rosemary Rigby Green on the 11th November, the Revd Mark Johnson dedicated a Liquid Amber Tree as Wormelow's official War Memorial. Until the dedication, Wormelow had no official war memorial, although funds collected after the First World War did finance the clock at Much Birch Church. After a request by Rosemary Rigby MBE, Much Birch Parish Council ratified the tree as the official War Memorial just a few weeks ago, and it is now on the National War Memorial list.

The Liquid Amber tree was planted in 2014, in the pouring rain, by pupils from Much Birch C of E Primary School. Each pupil present added a teaspoon of soil as part of the official ceremony. This year, at 11 a.m. and as the sun shone on the dedication service, the last post was sounded and a number of wreathes laid. Mike Lovelock, chair of St Weonards Royal British Legion, Miss Bea Morris of the War Memorial Trust, Trevor Forrester of the Pilgrim Hotel and Roger Sweetman all stepped forward and laid wreathes, finally two Year 6 children from the school laid their wreath. Small crosses were also placed next to the tree.

Some of the children recite poetry they had written especially for the day to reflect their view of the Great War one hundred years on. All the children present received a Violette Szabo postcard by Miss Rigby, as a lasting reminder of courage in times of war and a memento of the inaugural day. Leaving the field all the children and guests were treated to warm drinks and home made biscuits by Trevor Forrester of the Pilgrim Hotel, Trever is a former RAF serviceman who spent time in Afghanistan.

BAYLEY'S **WINDOW CLEANING** **SERVICE**

WATER FED POLE AND TRADITIONAL

WE ALSO CLEAN:-

- ⇒ **GUTTERS AND FACIAS**
- ⇒ **CONSERVATORY ROOFS**

FREE QUOTATIONS

* REFERENCES CAN BE GIVEN *

* ESTABLISHED IN AREA *

PHONE ANDREW

HOME: 01432 508979*

MOBILE: 07771 870891

EMail: bayleys@fsmail.net

Self-storage **Herefordshire**

£15 per week—no VAT

20ft x 8ft

7 Days a week access
Long or short term rental.

Seasoned ***Firewood for Sale***

George Cole

Mob: 07800952317

Tel: 01981241274

Email: coleg600@gmail.com



Castle Inn

01981 540 516



Your Local Local!

Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	6pm - Finish	
Thursday	12pm - 3pm	6pm - 11pm
Friday	12pm - 3pm	6pm - 11pm
Saturday	12pm - Finish	
Sunday	12pm - 9pm	

Delicious food in our restaurant
and take away menu available

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

We are currently recruiting for Family Based Overnight Short Break Carers for Children with Disabilities. We are looking for people with relevant skills and experience to provide this much needed service for children and families. A short break could be between one and six nights per month. Carers will be assessed as approved foster carers, receive £108 per overnight/24 hours and will be offered continuous training, development and ongoing support.

If you are interested in this rewarding work, please contact Stuart Barber or Sue Powell on 01432 383 240 or email fosteringandadoptionbusinesssupport@herefordshire.gov.uk.

To see more information please go to:-

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-and-family-care/fostering/short-breaks-carers.

Stuart Barber (Social Worker)
Overnight and Shortbreaks Coordinator (CwD)
Moor House , Widemarsh Common, Hereford, HR4 9NA
stuart.barber@herefordshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01432 383 225 (Ext. 3225)



AQUASSIST
LIQUID WASTE SOLUTIONS
85 Aylestone Hill, Hereford, HR1 1HX

**septic tank
emptying
treatment plants pumps**

0191 441888

reliable service & advice

www.aquassist.co.uk
the solution is clear



DEAN & SUN
Solar Electric Installation

Offering a full range of electrical services and now specialising in the installation and maintenance of PV solar panels to generate electric for households and small businesses.

Please contact us for a free, no obligation site survey and quotation or to discuss your requirements in more detail. We aren't salesmen, we aren't working for anyone else, we aren't a regional office...

We are a Hereford based family run business who will offer the perfect balance of service, value and affordability to new and existing customers.

Please see our website for full details and updates on the changes to the Feed In Tariff or email us at info@deanandsun.co.uk to receive our quarterly newsletter.

Tel: 01981 540030
Mobile: 07818 847986
Email: info@deanandsun.co.uk
www.deanandsun.co.uk

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



Local Home Grown Christmas Trees.

Norway Spruce and Nordman Fir.

Assorted sizes. Freshly cut



Follow signs in Little Dewchurch from 1st December.

Or phone 01432 840826 to come and select a growing tree for cutting closer to Christmas.

All parents know that those years before children go off to school and then college are vital in a child's life and having a good start at home is of utmost importance – but we also know things don't run smoothly all the time.

Home-Start Herefordshire believes parents have the key role in creating a secure childhood for their children. It's just sometimes they need a bit of help...your help, could make the difference.

Reasons for giving support are varied: Isolation, Domestic abuse, multiple births, child's behaviour, School attainment, mental illness, self esteem, disability and many more.

Last year we supported 208 Herefordshire families. This would not have been possible without the help of our home-visiting volunteers.

These wonderful people visit families at home, giving support to help them overcome a multitude of difficult situations. Our volunteers tend to be parents or have parenting experience. We have male and female volunteers of all ages and from all backgrounds. Some choose to train to volunteer as mentors and others may be experienced in specific fields and offer their support in different ways. All making the commitment to guide and support a family through their troubled time

Before they are matched with a family, an initial recruitment policy is adhered to. All new prospective volunteers attend a course of preparation, have an enhanced criminal records check, and references to support their application.

We now recruiting for our New Year course that starts on the 26th January it will run every Thursday for 10 weeks 9.30 - 2.50

Volunteers give 2-3 hours a week to visit a family. In return our volunteers find that they have fun, feel rewarded and honoured that they are allowed into the life of a family. Our volunteers are given excellent training and support, a chance to join in with our social events and all out of pocket expenses are paid.

If you would like to find out more about Home-Start or make a donation please

give us a call on 01432 371212 (weekdays between 9am – 4pm) or visit us at www.home-startherefordshire.co.uk

Alison Jones

Home-Start Herefordshire

Marketing and volunteer Recruitment Coordinator

1 Lakeside Offices, Thorn Business Park, Rotherwas, Hereford, HR2 6JT 01432 371212/371264



Education, employment and empowerment

Make a Will, Make a Difference Will Writing Fortnight 2017

We all know we should make a Will. But how many of us put off doing so without realising the implications for those we will leave behind? Making preparations in your lifetime about what should happen to your possessions or assets after you die may save your loved ones difficulties and cost in the future. Young people, as well as those of more advanced years, can make their wishes very clear by writing a Will.

In partnership with the Royal National College for the Blind (RNC), two solicitors firms are offering to help local people get their affairs in order whilst also supporting the College's work with people who are blind and partially sighted.

From 6th to 17th March 2017, Chartered Legal Executive, Sally Smith of Harrison Clark Rickerbys Solicitors, Hereford (01432 349670) and Adrian Jones, Paralegal at Gabbs Solicitors, Leominster (01568 616333) are offering to waive their Will writing fee in exchange for a donation to RNC. This opportunity relates to basic Wills i.e. where the instructions outlined in the Will are not complex.

The suggested donation is £95 for a basic single Will and £150 for basic mirror Wills. The money raised will give students at the RNC the chance to live independently and the opportunity to prepare for university or the workplace. Demand is likely to be high so booking an appointment for Will Writing Fortnight as early as possible with one of the two participating solicitors is recommended.

For more information, call 01432 376 371 or email: fundraising@rnc.ac.uk

Much Birch Village Market

The December Market on the 16th will regrettably be the last monthly market at Much Birch Community Hall. Despite appeals for someone to take over the organisation and running of the Market no-one has volunteered. Mark Goddard who has run the market for the past few years wishes to stand down for a number of reasons. Unfortunately not actually living in Much Birch or it's surrounds has also influenced his decision.

The market was started nearly 8 years ago by Kath Watts who was keenly involved with the organisation until recent times. It has enjoyed great support from the local community during that time. However there has unfortunately been a steady decline in recent years of people wishing to run stalls which has had an effect upon the numbers of customers attending.

Do come along and enjoy the Christmas Market on the 16th of December from 2-30PM

*If anyone would be interested in "taking up the baton" to allow this valuable resource to continue please contact Mark Goddard on 01432 278026
Email markmaggie@hotmail.com*

BM KAYE TAXI

**Local Taxi available
no job too large or too small !!**

Contact Brian Kaye on

**01981 540734 OR 07968147415
DAYS ONLY**

Okells Francis Law

Okells with Francis Law LLP Solicitors

Established Local Solicitors

**ALL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
AGRICULTURAL MATTERS
WILLS, PROBATE, TRUST AND
ESTATE MANAGEMENT
PERSONAL FINANCE AND TAX PLANNING
EMPLOYMENT LAW
FAMILY LAW
ACCIDENT CLAIMS**

Contact us for a **FREE** initial consultation

**Tel: Ross-on-Wye Office: (01989) 762009
Tel: Lydney Office: (01594) 842242**

Benefeeet
mobile foot clinic

Foot care in the comfort of your own home

Mobile Foot Clinic

Sophie is an experienced and qualified Foot Health Practitioner, a registered member of the British Association of Foot Health Professionals and is CRB police checked.



- Nail Trimming
- Thickened Nails
- Corns
- Callus (hard skin)
- Cracked Heels
- Verrucas
- Fungal Nails & Infections
- Ingrown Toenails
- Diabetic Foot Care



Sophie Limming Dip FH MCFHP MAFHP
Qualified & Registered Foot Health Practitioner

Tel: 0749 309 2960

sophie@benefeet.co.uk www.benefeet.co.uk

**LITTLE BIRCH
VILLAGE
HALL**
PRESENTS
ALIBABA AND THE
**FORTY
THIEVES**

Friday, 27th. Jan, 7.30pm

Saturday, 28th. 2.30pm

Saturday, 28th. 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £6.50, Children U14 £4

from: Jackie 01981 541027

Margaret 01981 540374





All aspects of quality joinery work undertaken including windows, doors, staircases and fitted furniture

Fitting is also available

Trade and domestic enquiries welcome or helpful and professional service, contact Julian Morgan on 01432 357357

or visit www.jmjoinery.com

Unit 3, Knockerhill Farm,
Callow, Hereford

PILATES

NEW BEGINNER CLASSES STARTING
SEPTEMBER 2012

Mondays 9.30am & 10.30am
Much Birch Community Hall

Wednesdays 7pm & 8pm
Little Dewchurch Hall
£7 per class

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS CLASS NUMBERS ARE LIMITED TO ALLOW FOR INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

Phone Alison Allan
01432 840491



GLAZYDAYS

■ CONSERVATORIES ■ WINDOWS ■ DOORS
■ FASCIAS ■ SOFFITS ■ GUTTERS

ALSO MISTED UNITS REPLACED

01981 541121

07818 611010

W: www.glazydays.net

E: sales@glazydays.net

St Michael's Hospice would love to receive your unwanted Christmas gifts and any other unwanted items in good condition that you might want to donate in 2017. We even accept unopened bottles of liquor and unopened tins of sweets or chocolates that are still in date!

Your nearest Hospice Shop is in Holme Lacy Road, Hereford:
Address: 2 Holme Lacy Road, Hereford HR2 6BY
Telephone: 01432 279074

Opening hours: Monday - Friday: 9.30am - 4.30pm.
Saturday: 9.30am - 1.30pm

Did you know that your Hospice Shop is looking for retail volunteers? Just four hours a week could really make a difference and help us raise vital funds.

Your nearest Home and Living Store is in Whitecross Road, Hereford: 85 Whitecross Road, Hereford HR4 0DQ
Telephone: 01432 842759

Opening hours: Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm:
Saturday: 9.30am - 1.30pm

Please call your Home and Living Store if you'd like to donate furniture and white goods or if you'd like to book them for a sympathetic and efficient house clearance.

Many thanks, Rachel Entwisle

Yoga In Much Dewchurch

at Steiner Academy.
Mondays 6.00- 7.15

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

Learn how to relax and let go. Discover how you can move more freely and improve your posture. A practical approach to yoga that is adaptable to anyone regardless of age or physical condition. All welcome.

- Small group Classes.
- Individual attention.
- Connect with your breath.
- Link simple movements for health and well being.
- Suitable for those recovering from injuries.

Individual lessons also available.
For more info contact Mike 01981 250 341

BRENDAN MORRIS CONSTRUCTION & CARPENTRY SPECIALISING IN uPVC WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES

call now for a free quotation
on; 07855760912
email

brendanmorris05@gmail.com

Locally Produced Firewood

- ◆ Split seasoned logs Ideal for woodburners
- ◆ Delivered in bulk bags
- ◆ £65 per bag or £60 ea. for multiple bags

Contact the Woodsman:

Maurice Clother 07813 598343 or mauriceonline@hotmail.com

Chestnut Fencing Products

- ◆ Stock Fencing
- ◆ Cleft post and Rail fencing
- ◆ Picket fencing
- ◆ Gates
- ◆ Wheely bin screens
- ◆ Log Stores

Please enquire for prices.



Little Birch Parish Council

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

Little Birch Parish Council			
Clr Ben Roberts	Chairman	01981 540100	b3nroberts@gmail.com
Clr Elaine Godding	Vice Chair	01981 540607	ecgodding@hotmail.co.uk
Clr Steve Naylor		01981 541323	steve.naylor5@btinternet.com
Clr Mike Morley		01981 541027	morley04@globalnet.co.uk
Clr Annette Wissler		Contact through the clerk	
Sandra Cameron	Volunteer Foot Paths Officer	01981 540397	shcameron@hotmail.co.uk
Sophie Glover	PC Clerk	01432 270499	littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

At the November meeting of Little Birch Parish Council, Mrs Jane Rigler came to tell the meeting about the OWL Good Neighbour scheme. This is a way to link volunteers with people who might need a hand doing things such as gardening, getting to the shops, getting some basic DIY done in their homes. OWL try to link the volunteers' skills with the needs of the people asking for assistance, and it is working well in the Garway area. If people in Much Birch, Little Birch or Aconbury are interested in finding out more about this scheme, please ring the clerk, Sophie, in the first instance.

The Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Planning steering group have now both delivered and collected from you your questionnaires, and thank you so much, we had an amazingly high return rate, with over 70% of the questionnaires being completed and returned to us. Perhaps it was the incentive of the £50 voucher for a meal at The Castle for questionnaires completed and returned to the steering group on time, this was won by Iana Collinson from Little Birch, and we hope that she has a lovely meal!

Other news is that the PC voted to have their meetings every month for a trial period of six months. The Councillors felt that with the Neighbourhood Plan progressing so well, and an increasing number of planning applications for them to consider, that monthly meetings might now be necessary. Members of the public are, as ever, invited to attend these meetings which happen on the first Wednesday of each month, and agendas are put on our web site and on the parish boards five days before hand.

The Parish Council and Little Birch Village Hall committee are now in the process of purchasing a defibrillator which will live on the outside wall of the Village Hall. We hope that we will have a training session on how to use it early in the new year – details will be on the parish notice board.

Finally, at this meeting, the Parish Council heard that Herefordshire Council were reducing the amount of money that they were putting into the lengthsman's services to 25% of the funds that are currently available. This means that should the parish wish to continue with the excellent work that has been done over the last 8 years to put in order the drainage gullies beside our lanes, clear the drains and generally help to maintain the parish, then we will need to fund it ourselves. To this end, the PC voted to absorb some of the costs expected in 2017/18 from our reserves, and they unanimously to increase the parish precept to £4,500 which is an increase of 12% from last year. The precept this year works out to be £24.19 per year per person on the Little Birch electoral role.

Mrs Sophie Glover, Little Birch Parish Clerk, The Orchard, Ridgehill, Hereford HR2 8AG

Website: www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

A reminder, please, that all new articles or advertising copy for inclusion in this Newsletter should now be sent to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.

Application for new advertising and rates should be directed to birchesnews@gmail.com



Murphy's Paw

The home of happy woofers!

Doggie Daycare
One to One Grooming
Home Boarding

Tump Lane, Much Birch
 Tel: Tricia 07732 286069
murphyspaw2005@gmail.com
www.murphyspaw.co.uk



FB: Murphy's Paw
Doggie Services

Providing a true "home from home" environment.
We welcome friends, old and new!

South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) - October 2016

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT

West Mercia Police

Where we work South Wye SNT is based at South Wye Police Station, Goodrich Grove, Newton Farm, Hereford, HR2 7DB, we work around the areas of Rural: Aconbury; Allensmore; Ballingham; Bolstone; Callow; Dewesall; 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; Pontrilas; St Devereaux; St Weonards; Tretire with Michealchurch; Thrupton; Treville; Wormbridge; Wormelow.

View our new Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police web-sites at: www.warwickshire.police.uk and www.westmercia.police.uk

Make the difference

For more information about becoming a Special Constable, please visit,

Warwickshire Police: www.warwickshire.police.uk/specialconstables

West Mercia Police: www.westmercia.police.uk/specialconstables

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.

For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via www.westmercia.police.uk.

Christmas Joke!

A white horse walks into a bar.

The barman says "do you know, we have a whisky named after you?"

"What, Eric? - That's unusual"

Your team

Sgt Emma Freer,

PC Roger Bradley,

PC Jim Phillips,

PCSO Lowri Anderson,

PCSO Adam Westlake,

PCSO Christina Howard,

PCSO Christopher Yarwood.

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.



Aconbury Shepherd Huts.



Our huts are hand built to the highest of standards. Our standard hut includes insulation, double glazing, electrics and decoration.

Uses include craft room, play house, sleep over's etc.

Come and see our display hut or request our new brochure.

We also build stables, field shelters, garden sheds, play houses, garden features and bespoke gates. Please ring for our dedicated brochure.

**Stephen Turner. The Underhills,
Hollybush Lane, Much Birch,
Herefordshire. HR2 8HX. Telephone
Office: 01981 540090
Mob: 07768 206296
www.aconburyshepherdhuts.co.uk
turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com**



Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust

Invites you to a

Music in Quiet Places concert

Featuring

'Cantabile'

BBC Songs of Praise Choir of the year 2015 and Gold Diploma winners at the Barcelona Festival 2016

At St Francis Xavier RC Church, Hereford

On Monday 5th.December 7 pm.

Free entry, retiring collection

CUSTOMER SUPPLIERS SALES RECEIPTS PURCHASES BOOKKEEPING JOURNALS RECORDING INCOME SYSTEM TRANSACTION LEDGER DAYBOOK GENERAL

EJ PARTINGTON BOOKKEEPING

Bookkeeping & Accounting Specialist

Woodfield, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HX

07989 854593 / 01981 541109

emmadeer@hotmail.co.uk

Bookkeeping	Payroll
Self-Assessment Returns	Management Accounts
VAT Returns	Invoicing

Emma Partington has over 10 years experience in the finance industry both in practice and in industry, a local business that is able to help with all your bookkeeping needs.

Call or e-mail today for a no obligation discussion about your requirements.

CROSS ROADS CARE

Forest of Dean & Herefordshire

Crossroads Care are a specialist charity working to help and support unpaid carers

If you are caring for a family member, friend or neighbour, our Health and Wellbeing Service may be able to assist you. We offer a range of services including:

Home visits and support planning

Our support workers can arrange home visits to discuss carers needs and carry out in-depth support planning, tailored to individual circumstances

Gents Pub Club and Ladies Lunch Club

Regular groups aimed at those being cared for who, due to ill health or disability, may have difficulties getting out to socialise. We provide door to door transport and have qualified support staff on hand

Community events

Monthly trips out across Herefordshire for Carers and those they care for. With our qualified support staff on hand to ease the caring role, our trips are the perfect chance to get out and about and meet new people

Call us on 01432 355373

www.crossroadshereford.org.uk

info@crossroadshereford.org.uk

Fred Bulmer Centre, Wall Street, Hereford, HR4 9HP

Registered Charity Number: 1086841



W.M. PARTINGTON

GENERAL BUILDER

- MINI-DIGGER & EXCAVATOR HIRE

RENOVATIONS
BARN
CONVERSIONS
NEW BUILD
EXTENSIONS

ROOFING
CONCRETING
PLASTERING
GROUNDWORK

UPVC WINDOWS
AND DOORS
BRICKWORK
STONEMWORK

RING FOR A QUOTATION

MUCH BIRCH

07774 805369 / 01981 541109

ALLANGAS & OIL



- ♦ Oil Installation and Servicing
- ♦ Boiler Specialist
- ♦ Landlord Inspections
- ♦ Heating Installations
- ♦ All aspects of domestic gas
- ♦ LPG and plumbing
- ♦ Ex British Gas engineer
- ♦ Over 21 years experience

T: 01432 840491

M: 07761646635

Steven Allan

Oftec Reg No: C12495

Gas Safe Reg No: 188939



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

16th November 2016

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd November at the Much Birch Community Hall.

The Parish Council discussed and resolved the budget and precept requirements for the year 2017/2018. The Meeting heard that the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish was progressing and the next Steering Group Meeting, to progress the Neighbourhood Plan further, would be held on 1st December 2016, from 7.30pm, in the Much Birch Community Hall. Again as always, **all are welcome to attend.**

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 8th December 2016 from 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,
email thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703

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

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

Cllr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW
email tjsj@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX
Email roisinburge@hotmail.com Tel. 01981 540724

Cllr David Baldwin The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS
Email baldwin79@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 541198

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 <https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

EMMA BRADBURY EQUINE

Mobile horse clipping services

Horse sitting / Holiday Cover

Or just an extra pair of hands!

25 years experience with horses
Fantastic references available

01981 541385 : 07725 536648

01981 541385 : 07970 346460

GARTH BRADBURY FENCING LTD

All types of fencing

Gates

Field Shelters

Timber Outbuildings

www.gb fencing contractors.com

garthbradburyfencing@hotmail.com

01981 541385 : 07970 346460

décor solutions

Tim Jones
Painter and Decorator



Kings Thorn, Herefordshire, HR2 8AW
Tel: 01981 540242 Mob: 07810 895355
tjsj@me.com

Three generations of experience specialising in Painting and Decorating services.
General property maintenance duties carried out.
Fully insured. Good competitive rates.
A high standard of workmanship and customer satisfaction guaranteed.