



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

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

April 2017. First published 1977.. Happy 40!

Little Birch Village Hall

Annual

# Quiz

For teams of up to four people

£2 per person

Refreshments during Interval

Friday March 24th 2017 at 7.30 pm

Quizmaster Roisin Burge

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

For enquiries and booking call Robyn on 01981 540264

Why? Who? What? Where?

## Diary Dates

March 2017

24th Music in Quiet Places St Michael's Church

24th Annual Quiz LBVH

24th Village Market MBCH

29th Gardening Club LBVH

30th Talk about Brian Hatton LBVH

April 2017

1st Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am

6th MB Parish Council meeting MBCH 7.30pm

7th Lent Lunch LBVH

7th Prize Bingo LBVH

11th Whist Drive LBVH

18th WI MBCH

20th Coffee Morning LBVH

27th Cider Making talk LBVH

27th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

28th Village Market MBCH

29th Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am

May 2017

13th Arts Community Festival Garway Church

*The Singing Tree is an informal fun singing group that started its life in Much Dewchurch, moved with us to Garway and we are now meeting in Kingsthorpe since our move here in July last year. No auditions, no need to read music, just come along and enjoy yourself. We meet on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm at Wynds Poynt. For more information please contact Hilary on 01981 540022 the [turning@phonecoop.coop](mailto:turning@phonecoop.coop)*

## Church Services March/April 2017



March 26th. Lent 4 <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	09.15 MBirch Matins 11am Llanwarne Holy Communion
April 2nd	11 am LBirch CW Communion
April 5th. <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.30 am walk from Pencoyd to Llanwarne for 10.30am Holy Communion at Llanwarne
April 13th.	7.30pm Tenebrae and washing of feet at Much Dewchurch.
April 14th <i>Good Friday</i>	2pm Llanwarne. 'The final hour'
April 16th <i>Easter Day</i>	09.15 MBirch CW Communion 11am LBirch CW Communion
April 23rd	09.15 MBirch Matins 11am Llanwarne CW Communion
April 30th	10.30am LBirch CW Communion with Holy Baptism Benefice Service for Wormelow Hundred Group.

The Monastery of Poor Clares at 11am every Sunday.  
Holy Communion at Much Birch every Thursday at 9.30am.

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

—by 18th April please.

**Local News**



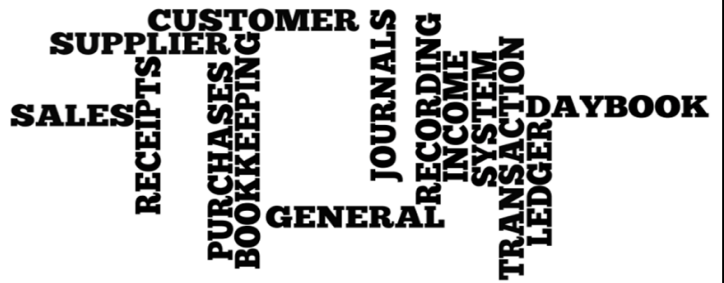
Apologies are tendered to the families of the late Roger Thomas and Joyce Wilden for any distress caused by the mix up of copy in their respective tributes. It was entirely my fault. ( JHB.)

Dr. Michael Davies and Mara are proud to announce the safe arrival of Dylan Max Brooke to their daughter, Dr. Morgan Davies and her partner Phil Brooke. Dylan Max was born on the 8th March and weighed in at 8lb 6oz. Mother and son are progressing well. Max and Lynn Cadman are now great grand parents.

We are sorry to record the deaths of two local residents Mr Percy Verry who lived much of his life in his cottage on the Barrack Hill and Mrs. Ruth Cook of King's Thorn. Full tributes will be given in the next Newsletter.

A very warm welcome is given to four families who have moved into King's Thorn recently.

Greg Denning and Jill Judd have come to live at Pump Cottage, Cassie Jones and Ashley Waldron have moved into Coronation Cottage and Rob Caton and Rachel Taylor with their son, Dexter, are about to move into 'Rosemount' in Little Birch Road, whilst Ray and Ben Chappell, with their daughters, Birdie and Berry, and Dog, 'Ted' came to live at 'Hillside' some months ago. We hope they will all be happy in their new homes and make new friends in due time.



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**From Rosemary Rigby MBE**

Wormelow Telephone Box



After much hard work and many people offering help, we have managed to secure the box for Wormelow. In the end it was through the kindness of the Trustees of the Rosemary Rigby Millennium Green Charity, that the box was purchased.

We now hope to bring it back to its former glory and turn it into a little lending library, with people donating and borrowing books. We greatly need your help, and I am asking if you would be generous enough to donate one or more toughened glass panels – We need 24 large ones at £13 each for glass and frame and 48 small ones at £8.50 each.

Several very good gentlemen of the area have most kindly agreed to undertake all the very hard work now involved in order to achieve this special project.

B.T. are giving the correct red paint and seven years free electricity, for which we are very grateful.

If you would be so kind and support this unique venture – please contact me – on 01981 540477

Thanking you in advance, Rosemary Rigby MBE and holder of the Points of Light Award.

**Revd Mark Johnson**  
 Rector - Wormelow Hundred Benefice

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Little Birch and King's Thorn History Group

Come and find out about

# Brian Hatton



Herefordshire's artist who was well known for  
his portraits, horses and landscapes

He might have become more  
famous but for his death in WW1

Robin Thorndyke will talk to us about

## The Harrow and the Plough

showing us his paintings of farms and rural activities

Little Birch Village Hall

Thursday March 30th at 7.30 pm

Entry £3.00 to include light refreshments

The members of *The Ridgeway Chorale*, a small friendly chamber choir based in Tring, Hertfordshire, are this year spending their annual away-weekend in Herefordshire. They will be giving a concert in that architectural (and acoustical) gem, **St. Catherine's Church, Hoarwithy**, at **7.30 p.m.** on **Saturday 13 May**. The programme will consist of short items, whose composers range from G.F. Handel to Sir Elton John, taking in other famous composers such as W.A. Mozart, Jerome Kern, Billy Joel and Anonymous on the way! Our accompanist for the evening will be John Merrick, who, among his many musical roles, is accompanist to the Ross Choral Society. Our soloist will be Madeleine Morris, a talented young 'cellist from the Gloucester area, who recently achieved distinction in her diploma exam, such that she is now an Associate of Trinity College London.

The musicians are giving their services entirely free, so all the proceeds from the concert will be divided between Breast Cancer Haven in Hereford and St. Catherine's Church. **Tickets cost £8** (18 years and under free), and are available from The New Harp Inn at Hoarwithy, the Reception Desk at Breast Cancer Haven (37 St. Owen Gate, Hereford), from Sheila Pulfer (01989 218706) or at the door.

If you'd like to know a little more about the choir, please visit [www.ridgewaychorale.org.uk](http://www.ridgewaychorale.org.uk).

We do hope you will be able to come to what promises to be a most enjoyable concert in support of two good causes. Refreshments will be available during the interval.

## Little Birch & Aconbury's Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan

12 months ago Aconbury and Little Birch parishes voted to form a Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan and a Steering Group was created. Neighbourhood Development Plans give communities increased ability to influence planning decisions in their area. It gives local people new rights to shape the development of the neighbourhood in which they live.

We held three public events last summer, followed by the Questionnaire delivered to every resident. Dr. David Nicholson, our Consultant, analysed the results from the questionnaires returned and these are the basis of our Development Plan.

The next stage is to look at how new housing is to be guided, taking account of the survey results. At last month's meeting David explained his draft 'Housing Delivery Report'. The Group discussed how best to define the villages of Aconbury and Little Birch and to provide for new housing. David is now preparing a revised version of his Report in line with what was agreed – this will be looked at again by the Group at our next meeting.

We have made good progress in the past year, but we are at the stage now where decisions need to be made on the way forward. If you want to be part of that process be sure to attend. There is no long term commitment to be part of the Steering Group.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 19 April at 7pm. Put this date in your diary or on your kitchen calendar. All are very welcome.

For more information and to be kept up to date, or have notification of future meetings please contact Sophie Glover, Clerk to LB&A NDP Steering Group - [littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

To follow the progress of Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan check out the website – [www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org).

## Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

For all information contact John Jones—Promoter  
[josyjo@talktalk.net](mailto:josyjo@talktalk.net)

MUCH BIRCH CHURCH

Fundraising Committee is holding a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 13th May 2017 in Much Birch Community Hall from 10.30 am until 12.30 pm. Proceeds for the Church Fabric Fund.

## Andy and Sue

Welcome you to

### THE AXE AND CLEAVER

Much Birch



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#### SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH

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For £6.95

#### SUNDAY ROAST LUNCH

£10.95 for 2 courses—Bookings advised

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#### The History of Cider Making at Weston's

Come and find out about the history of cider making by Weston's Cider at Much Marcle.

Richard Moyse from Weston's will give us an illustrated talk which will be followed by a tasting session accompanied by a ploughman's supper.

(Please no under 18s by Weston's request)

The talk will be at Little Birch Village Hall on Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.30.

Entrance £5.00 to include ploughman's supper

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## Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for April 2017

### Annual Little Birch Village Quiz

Will you be crowned as a member of the winning team of the 2017 Little Birch Village Annual Quiz?

**Little Birch Village Hall** again plays host to this enjoyable and entertaining evening on **Friday 24th March at 7:30pm**. Teams of 4 are invited to compete in a series of rounds.

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

£2.50 per person, refreshments available.

Contact Robyn to book your place 01981540264

### Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The Book Exchange will be on the mornings of **Saturday 1st April** and **Saturday 29th April** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12pm**.

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.

### Easter Prize Bingo

Eyes down at **8pm** on **Friday 7th April** 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.

### 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 11th April** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

### Much Birch PC Meeting Dates for 2017

The 2017 dates for Much Birch Parish Council Meetings, all on Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30pm in the Community Hall:

April 6th May 4th June 8th July 6th September 7th October 5th November 2nd and December 7th

**St Michael's Hospice Plant Fair**  
**5th and 6th May 2017**  
**Friday 11am - 7pm and**  
**Saturday 10am - 5pm**

This inaugural event will be a celebration of springtime gardening. The Fair will take place in the Hospice gardens on the new terrace, a sun trap looking out onto beautiful views towards Haugh Woods.

A chance to browse and buy a wide range of plants grown by professional and amateur gardeners. Handmade birdhouses, trugs, honey and preserves will also be on sale.

Delicious two-course lunches (booking essential) and other refreshments available; please see our website for booking details. Pre-school craft activities will run on Friday; and school-aged children can take part in WildPlay sessions provided by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust on Saturday (11am-4pm).

For full details, visit [www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

This summer, a wide array of beautiful gardens will be open for you to explore.

From a monastery to a Victorian mansion which played host to a hit movie, visitors to our Open Gardens events won't be short of choice.

There are 15 different dates for your diary, with our inaugural St Michael's Hospice Plant Fair kicking things off on 5th May.

For more details, visit [st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](http://st-michaels-hospice.org.uk) or pick up an Open Gardens brochure at the Hospice or in any of our Retail outlets.

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



On 31st. March the AGM will be held to hear reports from 2016 and the Programme for 2017

On April 26th, Mr D.G. Everitt will discuss 'Lilies and Summer Flowering Bulbs'.

On May 31st. Alun and Jill Whitehead will give an illustrated talk on 'Iris for the Natural Garden'

All meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm

Further details from John Bryant - 01981 540316

# BLACK ADDER

By kind permission of the BBC and authors  
 Richard Curtis & Ben Elton

Little Birch Drama Group present

## Blackadder II

(Bells, Head and Potato)

Limited seating, reserve your tickets now.

15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm  
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Jackie: 01981 541027

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RING FOR A QUOTATION

MUCH BIRCH  
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Thursday 20 April 10:30am - 12:30pm

Little Birch Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who recently attended the enjoyable LBVH informal coffee morning.

Those who attended commented that they appreciated the opportunity to catch up with old friends, get to know new neighbours and meet interesting people who live in the area.

Looking ahead members of the community (all ages) are warmly invited to the next 'Community drop-in coffee morning' on Thursday 20 April 2017.

If you would like help with transport, please contact Margaret on 540374 and we will do our best to link you up with a fellow traveller with wheels!

We look forward to seeing you

## ARCHENFIELD ARTS COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
in Garway Church  
from 11.00 am till 5.00 pm

### Refreshments available

This is your chance to have a go and do your turn.... singing, playing, reciting, reading, whatever you choose.... in front of a small friendly audience.

All ages welcome.

For all standards, experienced and beginners alike

Come along and enjoy the talents of local people

CONTACT

Hilary Smallwood 01981 540022

[theturning@phonecoop.coop](mailto:theturning@phonecoop.coop)

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SATURDAY 8th APRIL 2017  
7pm

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performance, in Much Birch Hall

**Tickets £8.00**

to include light refreshments

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Proceeds for Much Birch  
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# FLICKS IN THE STICKS

at Much Birch Community Hall

Thursday 27th April - A UNITED KINGDOM 12A

A UNITED KINGDOM is a biographical romantic drama about Prince Seretse Khama, later to become the first president of Botswana, who causes a diplomatic stir when he marries a white woman from London in the late 1940s.

Starring David Oyelowo, Rosamund Pike, Tom Felton, Laura Carmichael, Jack Davenport, Charlotte Hope.

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

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Coming soon...

Tuesday 23rd May - ALLIED 15

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please email [bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com](mailto:bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com) or call 01981 540097

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



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# Spring Concert



## The Ridgeway Chorale

[www.ridgewaychorale.org.uk](http://www.ridgewaychorale.org.uk)

A concert of short choral pieces, sacred and secular, serious and light-hearted, something for everyone.

Richard Grylls - Musical Director  
John Merrick - Accompanist  
Madeleine Morris - Cello

St. Catherine's Church,  
Hoarwithy,

Saturday, 13th May 2017, 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £8 (18 & under free).

From The New Harp Inn, Hoarwithy,  
Reception, Breast Cancer Haven, Hereford,  
on the door or phone 01989 218706



proceeds shared between

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**Little Birch Parish Council**

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

Cllr Ben Roberts	Chairman	01981 540100	b3nroberts@gmail.com
Cllr Elaine Godding	Vice Chair	01981 540607	ecgodding@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Steve Naylor		01981 541323	steve.naylor5@btinternet.com
Cllr Mike Morley		01981 541027	morley04@globalnet.co.uk
Cllr 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 March Little Birch Parish Council meeting, there were apologies from Cllr Wissler and Ward Cllr Harlow.

The meeting discussed the importance of The Castle public house to the village, saying how happy they were that it had reopened and how much they hoped that those parishoners who could, would make an effort to drop in there for a drink or a meal to show support. The Parish Council have listed the pub as a 'Community Asset', as an indication to how strongly they feel that it benefits the area, and they will look to continue this listing when it comes up for renewal early next year.

The Parish Council also heard of the work that the steering group is doing on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). They are keen to not only support the excellent work of this steering group, but also to encourage any parishoners who are free to attend the meetings. The steering group is at a key stage of the NDP, and the PC would remind every one that if/when it is passed, the NDP will be the guide that Herefordshire Council planning department will use in any decisions about granting planning permission up until 2031.

The next Parish Council meeting is on:- 5<sup>th</sup> April, all at 7.30pm and all parishoners are very welcome to attend. Agendas are posted on the Parish notice board at least three days in advance and are also on our web site.

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

Website: [www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org)

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## Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI meets 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.

A note for the diary:... The Open Meeting this year is in April with a talk, 'Every Object tells a Story', by Althea Mackenzie from the Hereford Museum Resource Centre.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

Please contact Sallie on 01432 340069 for further details.

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13th March 2017

**PARISH MEETING** – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March at the Much Birch Community Hall.

The meeting considered responses to three planning applications and heard about progress on the Neighbourhood Plan from the Steering Group Chair. Neighbourhood Plan Meeting dates were published last month and below is a reminder of future dates for 2017. Meetings are open to all. All meetings will take place at the Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm. People can join in at any time and even just when specific things are happening. As always, any offers of help will be gratefully received. Dates for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings are: 30 March; 20 April; 1 June; 29 June; 31 August; 28 September; 26 October; 30 November.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 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, e mail [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wyenet.co.uk)  
Tel. 01981 540703

**Cllr Steve Turner** (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail  
[turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com](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 [tjsi@me.com](mailto:tjsi@me.com) Tel. 01981 540242

**Cllr Roisin Burge** The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX [roisinburge@hotmail.com](mailto:roisinburge@hotmail.com) Tel. 01981 540724

**Cllr David Baldwin** The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS [baldwin79@btinternet.com](mailto: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](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>

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## South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

**Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247**

**Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT**

**West Mercia Police**

### Get in touch

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### 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.

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