



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

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

February 2017. First published 1977.. Happy 40!

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



## Diary Dates

### January 2017

25th Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm  
27th  
&  
28th Panto LBVH 7.30pm

### February 2017

1st LB Parish Council Meeting LBVH 7pm  
14th Whist Drive LBVH 7.30pm  
21st WI Meeting MBCH  
22nd Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm  
26th "Parlour Tricks" Steiner Academy  
28th Pancake Evening LBVH 7.30pm

### March 2017

8th LB Neighbourhood Meeting LBVH 7pm

## Church Services February 2017



5th. Feb.	11am LBirch	Holy Communion.
12th Feb.	09.15 MBirch	Family Communion.
	11am LBirch	Morning Worship
19th. Feb	09.15 MBirch	CW Communion
	11am LBirch	1662 Communion
26th Feb	09.15 MBirch	Morning Prayer
	09.15 Llandinabo	BCP Communion
	11am Llanwarne	Holy Communion
5th March	11am LBirch	Holy Communion

## Preliminary Notice

Hereford Rail Male Voice Choir will be presenting a Concert on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in Much Birch Church at 7.30pm. Proceeds for Much Birch Community Hall Refurbishment and Extension fund.



Please send copy for the March 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 February please.

## Local News

Congratulations are extended to Bill Walker and Kath who plan to be married at the end of January. We hope that they will enjoy many years of happiness together.



Congratulations also go to Huw Enoch who won his Class at the prestigious Leominster Ploughing Match last autumn which means that he can now compete in the National Ploughing Championship. Well done Huw!

It is sad to report the death of Edith Davies, formerly of King's Thorn who passed away a few weeks before her 100th birthday. She was living in Essex with one of her grand daughters. We extend to her family our deepest sympathies.

It is also sad to report that Sue Pomeroy of Little Birch Road passed away early on New Year's Day after a short illness. Sue was a film director and had her own film company, 'Fuchsia Films'.

Sue can be found on the Internet as she was involved in a remake of Jane Austen. She was also an erstwhile Resident Director of the National Theatre in London with Sir Peter Hall and Anthony Hopkins. We send to her sister, Vanessa, our sincere condolences.

Mark and Laura Simnett and children, Alana and Luke have moved some 400 metres from the Barn in King's Thorn to 'Hawthorn Cottage' and we trust they will all be happy in their new home. We give a warm welcome to Claire and Mark who are planning to move into 'The Barn' early in February.

Two years ago, 'Castles of the Marches' was serialised in the Newsletter, now John Kinross of Much Birch has written another book entitled 'Battlefields of England and Scotland' also

published by Amberley Books of Stroud. Seventy battlefields are included with maps and illustrations. Locally, Mortimers Cross in the north of the county and in Tewksbury, 'The Wars of the Roses', are described in detail. The battles of Worcester are also highlighted- one at the start of the Great Civil War and one at the end. The book is available from all good bookshops.

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### Community events

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# Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for February 2017

## Little Birch Pantomime 2016 "Ali Baba & The Forty Thieves"

Friday and Saturday **27th & 28th January 7:30pm**

**Saturday matinee 2:30pm**

Adults - £6.50 Under 14 - £4

Tickets available from:

Jackie - 01981 541027 \* Margaret - 01981 540374

## Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The Book Exchange will be on the morning of **Saturday 4th February** 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.

## 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 14th February** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

## LBVH Annual Pancake Evening

We would love you to join us at Little Birch Village Hall at **7:30pm on Tuesday 28th February** for a selection of delicious homemade pancakes with a variety of fillings, savoury and sweet!

£2.50 for two and 50p for each additional one you can manage!

We look forward to seeing you there.

## *Much Birch Churchyard*

*In recent weeks there has been evidence of dog fouling in the churchyard. The Church grounds are consecrated land as such should be treated with respect. Please will dog owners not allow their animals to foul this area.*

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Wishing you all joy in 2017,

Rachel Entwisle

St Michael's Hospice

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## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 4pm. An Event Not to Be Missed!

We are fortunate indeed for coming to rural Herefordshire with rave reviews from London are Morgan and West, that time travelling magic duo with their brand new show.

Jaws will be dropped! Awe will be struck! Minds will be boggled!

The dashing chaps offer up a plateful of illusion and impossibility, all served with wit, charm and no small amount of panache. Be sure to wear a hat – Morgan & West might just blow your mind.

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So come and join the fun and put some magic into February!

Book your tickets now to avoid disappointment  
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### Little Birch & Aconbury's Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan

At the first meeting of 2017 the Steering Group for LB&A NDP were advised by Dr David Nicholson, our planning consultant, that due to the low numbers now required to meet Hereford Council's need for a minimum 14% increase in dwellings, he would produce a 'Housing Delivery Report', which would show how we could achieve such numbers.

This would set out the character of the two parishes - notably the dispersed settlement pattern - as well as reviewing the locations mentioned in responses to the recent Questionnaire Survey. The aim would be to allow further development to come forward that would respect the distinctive character of the villages and be in line with the residents' wishes as expressed in the Questionnaire Survey.

The next steering group meeting would be in early March to discuss David's report and then to finalise the report from any comments made. This meeting is proposed to be on 8th March at Little Birch Village Hall at 7pm.

Anyone wishing more information would be welcome to come along to this meeting . All are welcome.

To be kept up to date with the local NDP and have notification of impending meetings please email our clerk Sophie Glover [littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk) who will add you to the emailing list or visit [www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org)

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# FLICKS IN THE STICKS

at Much Birch Community Hall

Thursday 23rd February 2017, 7.30pm -  
**LEARNING TO DRIVE** <sup>15</sup>

Isabel Coixet directs this comedy starring Ben Kingsley and Patricia Clarkson. Wendy (Clarkson), a book critic in New York, is oblivious to the infidelities of her husband. When the marriage deteriorates after 21 years, Wendy, who relied on husband Ted (Jake Weber) for driving, realises she must restate her independence and learn herself, and so contacts Sikh driving instructor Darwan (Kingsley). Behind the wheel, the pair form a close friendship and confide in each other about their personal lives, including Darwan's upcoming arranged marriage to Jasleen (Sarita Choudhury), a woman travelling from his village in India to New York.

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

**Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)**

At Much Birch Flicks our ticket prices have remained the same for the past 7 years. However, from January 2017 our prices have increased just a little, by 50p.

**Coming up this season...**

**BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL Saturday 4th March**

2.30pm SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS <sup>PG</sup>

7.30pm CAFÉ SOCIETY <sup>12A</sup>

Tuesday 28th March - THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS <sup>12A</sup>

Thursday 27th April - A UNITED KINGDOM <sup>12A</sup>

Tuesday 23rd May - ALLIED <sup>15</sup>

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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## What a Wassail!

We had a fantastic night in Little Birch village hall on Saturday 14th. January, when we held our annual Wassail.

It never ceases to amaze us that so many people turn out for this evening of largely repeated activities and songs mixed with complete lunacy, but they do. And our sincere thanks to them, because with their help we managed to raise £952 for Hope Support Charity.

The weather was kind as we processed from the village hall to Bob Mason's orchard to go through our wassail ritual, with burning fires, shouts, songs and a mucky attempt at dancing. Then back in the hall, everyone settled down for our 2017 version of a Mummers Play, which included cameo appearances from Nigel Farage, Donald Trump, Ed Balls, Vlad Putin, Jeremy Corbyn and in starring role, St. Georgina, aka Teresa May, played by Bob M..

After food, we continued with a variety of the usual wassail songs and other bits from Compost Heap, plus poems and songs from friends. It really was a great evening with lots of laughter both from the audience and us. Rob Gould's Scottish interpretation of Putin could get him a part in the next RSC production of Macbeth, whilst Bob Mason is still trying to pry himself out of a very tight pair of leather trousers that he bought from a charity shop as part of his Teresa May outfit. He does seem to like dressing up!

Thank you so much to all who came along and for the generosity that was shown. Our thanks also go to all who helped us through the evening, performing, producing the food, sound and lights, running the bar and helping to clear up.

Until next year! *Wassail!*

Compost Heap (Bob Chance, Bob Mason, Rob Gould, Allan Pugh)



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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

The first Little Birch Parish Council meeting of 2017 happened on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, and all Councillors were present, and, although the Ward Cllr had to send his apologies, he had sent a report electronically.

The Councillors asked our localities steward from Balfour Beatty to look at the surface of the road on Pendant Pitch, there was a feeling that the subsidence and surface cracking might soon become a serious issue. As expected at this time of year, pot holes are beginning to open up and a number of these were also reported to Balfour Beatty.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the defibrillator has been purchased, and discussions are now underway as to where exactly to place it on the outside of the village hall. The Parish Council's preference was to have it on the wall near the notice board at the front of the building, or, if not there, at least to make sure that it is well sign posted from the car park.

The next Parish Council meetings are on:- 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March and 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)

### Yoga

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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.

On February 21<sup>st</sup> the subject of the evening will be Self Protection when the speaker will be Roger Sparkes.

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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## Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The January 2017 draw took place on 15<sup>th</sup> January in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am and the results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> prize – No 61                      2<sup>nd</sup> prize - No. 2  
 Mr. C. Sherwood                      Mr. & Mrs. D. Hill  
 Much Birch                              King's Thorn

The next draw will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones  
 Promoter

*No Stress, No Worries,*

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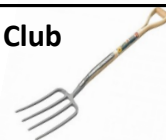
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## King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club



Our New Year meetings starts on January 25th, when Sue Russell will give an illustrated talk entitled '50 Shades of Green'.

In February, Helen or Phillip Mugridge will give a talk on 'A year in the life of a wildlife photographer'. This takes place on February 22nd.

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

Further enquiries to John Bryant 01981 540316.

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## Tomatoes in Growbags

Last year my tomato crop failed. I grew several varieties but all plants had distorted growth, typically with pale, curled leaves, and fern like shoot tips. The fruits were also extremely distorted. I have since heard of other growers, both locally and further afield, who have experienced this problem.

I took several photos and sent them to Reg. Moule, on H&W garden question time, to get his opinion. He diagnosed contact with hormone weed killer. I could not understand this as my tomato plants had not been outside my greenhouse and I had not used any hormone weedkiller.

However, an article in the January 2017 edition of the RHS publication of "The Garden", appears to have confirmed Reg's diagnosis. The RHS has been contacted by a number of people who have experienced the same problem. In all cases, like mine, the tomatoes were planted in growbags. The RHS seem to think that the culprit is composted green waste that included grass clippings from turf treated with the persistent broadleaved lawn weedkiller clopyralid. The growbag contents could be either peat free or peat reduced.

Hopefully this was a one-off, but to be ultra cautious the RHS recommend taking a sample of compost from a growbag, putting it in a couple of pots and planting either a couple of tomato or broad bean seeds in them – label clearly. In addition, take another couple of pots and fill with, say, some John Innes potting compost and sow *like* seeds in these two pots and compare the growth of each.

I doubt that growbag manufacturers have a clue as to what gets composted. It may seem a bit of a fiddle to perform the above test, but it may avoid an early return to supermarket tomatoes with leather skins and little taste as we experienced last year.

Derek Scrivens

**Much Birch Parish Council**  
Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright  
Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire HR2 9NE  
Tel. 01981 250860  
Email: [muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

16th January 2017

**PARISH MEETING** - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> January at the Much Birch Community Hall.

The next Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, from 7.30pm, in the Much Birch Community Hall. The Steering Group would welcome anyone from the community who may wish to be involved in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. When finished and adopted the plan will specify criteria to be considered when development is proposed in the parish. A list of Steering Group meetings for the 2017 year was being finalised.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 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 [tjsj@me.com](mailto:tjsj@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**



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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

**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.

