

Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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

March 2017. First published 1977.. Happy 40!



Herefordshire Historic
Churches Trust
presents



MUSIC IN QUIET PLACES

24th March 2017 at 7pm
St. Michael's Church, Kingsland

Featuring choirs and musicians from Hereford Cathedral School, Kingsland Church of England school and Moor Park school.

Entrance is free with a retiring collection for the HHCT.

Tickets can be reserved from
eventbrite.co.uk - simply search for
'Music in Quiet Places'

For further information visit www.hhct.co.uk

Lost Property

A rust coloured scarf was left at Little Birch Village Hall on Friday 27th January after the Pantomime. Please contact Margaret or Derek on 01981 540 374 to arrange for its return.

Much Birch Village Market

As usual Much Birch Village Market will be held on Friday 24th February at 2.30pm until 4.30pm in the Community Hall. Stalls will include meats, cheeses, pies, crafts, glass art, handmade cards, cakes, honey, hive products, recycled silver and Fair Trade goods. Refreshments will be available. For further information please contact John and Sylvia Jones tel: 01981 540980

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

—by 18th March please.

Diary Dates

February 2017

- 24th Village Market MBCH
- 26th "Parlour Tricks" Steiner Academy
- 28th Pancake Evening LBVH 7.30pm

March 2017

- 1st St David's Day
- 4th Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am
- 4th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH 2.30 & 7.30pm
- 8th LB Neighbourhood Meeting LBVH 7pm
- 9th Coffee Morning LBVH 10.30am
- 9th MB Parish Council meeting MBCH 7.30pm
- 14th Whist Drive LBVH 7.30pm
- 17th St Patrick's Day
- 24th Music in Quiet Places St Michael's Church
- 29th Gardening Club LBVH

April 2017

- 1st Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am
- 6th MB Parish Council meeting MBCH 7.30pm

Church Services March/April 2017



- | | |
|---|--|
| March 1st | Much Birch 10.30am Holy Communion with ashing. |
| March 5th.
Lent 1 | LBirch 11am. Holy Communion |
| March 12th
Lent 2 | MBirch 09.15 Family Communion
LBirch 11am Morning Worship |
| March 19th.
Lent 3 | MBirch 09.15 CW Communion
LBirch 11am 1662 Communion |
| March 26th.
Lent 4
Mothering Sunday | MBirch 09.15 Matins
Llanwarne 11am Holy Communion |
| April 2nd | LBirch 11am CW Communion |

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

Local News



A warm welcome to Much Birch to Greg and Emma Thomas and 3 year old daughter Belina, who have just moved into Byanston, Hollybush Lane. Greg is Head of Music and Emma teaches History at St. Mary's School, Lugwardine. They moved here from Tewkesbury.

Phillip and Nikki Jones have just moved into Curlew Croft, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch with their children Robbie (21) and Owen (16). They have been living in Hereford.

Phillip has worked for a number of years with his father, Dave Jones, in Dave's Electrical Business and Dave is now heading for a well earned retirement. We wish Phillip, Nikki and their family every happiness in their future life in Much Birch.
Dick Brimacombe

Congratulations are extended to Lynette Roberts who has completed 26 years of dedicated service at the Surgery. Lynette plans to retire on 22nd. March and we wish her and husband, John, a long and happy retirement.

Congratulations are also sent to Miss Rosemary Rigby MBE on her Prime Minister's 'Points of Light' award for outstanding voluntary service in the area and particularly for the creation of the Violette Szabo museum.

Congratulations also go to Mr. Don Austins of Wrigglebrook who, last month celebrated his 101st. birthday. Keep taking the pills Don! They are obviously working. Don drives to Tesco at Belmont every day.

Sadly we have to record 5 deaths in the community over the past month.



Jim Baker's family is sad to report that he passed away in late January aged 92 years of age, and had a tremendous attendance at his funeral in Much Birch where he lived for 56 years. Having been married to Joyce for 72 years and lost her almost 2 years ago to the day, he is now at peace having missed her so much.

Born in 1924 Jim worked locally in farming, until joining the 70th Anti Tank Artillery (then latterly the Ulster Rifles) aged 18. In this year he also married his childhood sweetheart Joyce – the family have a photograph of them sitting side by side on a school bench at Hentland School!

After leaving the Army Jim returned to farming with Joyce who was often by his side working on the farm, he finally settled at Long Orchard fruit Farm in Much Birch working initially for Sir James and Anthony Achesson where he was Farm Foreman. Retiring at the age of 65 the farm was now owned by Geoff and Roz Perry. Jim gave way to his son Michael in 1989. But he continued to work and keep involved on the Farm – often working 6 ½ days a week!

Andy and Sue
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Always with Joyce and all of their five children at his side on the farm at various times!

Geoff Perry sold the farm to Frank Green who then rented land to Anthony and Christine Snell at Windmill Hill where Jim continued to help on both farms until the age of 80 years old. Jim always loved his work and could not understand others who did not share the same values. He and Joyce continued to live very happily at their original home on Court Farm visited daily by much of the family.

The funeral service of **Joan Dillon** erstwhile of King's Thorn, was held at the Crematorium on 9th. February. She was 84 years of age and many of her grandchildren took part in the service.

Joan was born in March 1932 in Eau Withington, Hereford. She attended Sutton School and then St Paul's Tupsley, which she enjoyed and was a very studious pupil. After leaving school she first worked for accountants Thorne Widgery, and then for the builders Charlie Honey at Holmer. This is where she met her future husband Tim Dillon. They married in September 1957, and in November 1958 Sharon was born. Initially living in a flat near to her family home, they soon bought a plot of land at Kings Thorn and built Glen View. John was born in 1960 and Sue in 1966.

Her many interests included dancing, she was very accomplished and gained Gold awards in Ballroom and Latin, many evenings were spent at Park Hall Ballroom enjoying the big bands that played there in the sixties, seventies and early eighties. She helped locally with fundraising for Little Birch Village Hall, running many Country and Western Evenings with friends in the village and served on the Village Fete Committee for some years. She was an excellent seamstress, making and altering clothes for many, and making numerous wedding and bridesmaids dresses.

In 1984 they moved to Mount Skippet near the top of the Callow, and then in 1998 moved back along the road to Jabiru (the site of Wilf Taylors old garage), and then a few years later moved a little further up the road to Westerley.

Joan joined the WI and delivered Meals on Wheels for many years with her friends, the late Sylvia Atkinson and Jill Richards, erstwhile of Little Birch Road, King's Thorn.

At this time Tim and Joan enjoyed many holidays travelling widely, she also took up painting as a hobby which she thoroughly enjoyed and was very good.

After Tim died, Joan – after some 53 years in the community – moved into Hereford to be near to Sharon and husband John, with granddaughter Louise and her family also living not far away. She travelled less, but still enjoyed time away with her sister Pat and husband Derek, including many weeks at the caravan she bought at

Little Birch & Aconbury's Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan

Following on from the questionnaire which nearly 80% of residents completed, Dr David Nicholson, our planning consultant, said at the last meeting in January that he would produce a 'Housing Delivery Report'. This will show how the two parishes of Aconbury and Little Birch can achieve the required increase in new dwellings.

David says that his work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been proceeding behind the scenes for the past six weeks. Without realising, some of you may have seen our planning consultant out and about, tramping the lanes and byways, busy assessing the special distinctive character of both parishes. He will also be taking into consideration the many comments and views expressed in the questionnaire.

His report will be considered and discussed at a meeting of the Steering Group on Wednesday 8 March at Little Birch Village Hall. Dr David Nicholson will attend a meeting a week later on Wednesday 15 March at Little Birch Village Hall starting at 7pm.

Any resident who has not yet attended a Steering Group meeting would find this a very interesting meeting as his report will form the 'blueprint' for the Neighbourhood Plan itself. 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

To follow the progress of Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan check out the website – www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org.

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The winners of the February 2017 draw are as follows:

1 st prize – Mrs E. Jones	2 nd prize - Mrs. R. Wathen
Much Birch	King's Thorn
£25.00	£20.00

The next draw will be held in the Community Hall on 12th March in the Community Hall at 10.30am

John Jones
Promoter

Saundersfoot in Pembrokeshire.

She will be hugely missed by her children, grandchildren Paul, Louise, James and Joanna, and her great grandchildren Evie, Dylan, Issy and Freya, family and many friends. We send to the family our sincere condolences.

The family of **Roger Thomas (26/5/22-31/01/17)** would like to thank friends and family for the support during their recent loss. Roger, loved nothing better than a good chat with neighbours who phoned or popped in to see him, so it has been a comfort that this has continued.

Born and brought up with brother Tony in Risca, Monmouthshire, Roger studied for an engineering degree in Cardiff

In 1944 he qualified as an RAF pilot in Rhodesia, and as war ended was posted to RAF Little Rissington where he met WAAF Edna Evans who was in the meteorological office.

After finishing his studies, Roger and Edna married on 7 July 1951 at St Thomas Church, Swansea, Edna's home, where Roger struck up a long-lasting friendship with Brother-in-Law Glyn Evans.

Following their wedding, Roger and Edna moved to Cardiff, where Roger worked as a civil engineer in the City Hall.

21 November 1953 - a special day for Roger. Not only did Cardiff beat the All Blacks but his first daughter Margaret was born.

His career instigated a move to Stevenage, where his daughter Sian was born, and then on to Weston- Super-Mare.

In 1962 the family moved to Hereford when Roger took up the position of Deputy City Surveyor at the Town Hall, before moving to the Welsh Water Authority as Operations Manager with responsibilities throughout the Beautiful Wye Valley. In Hereford they reacquainted themselves with several contacts from Risca, developing some very happy friendships.

In 1977 Roger and Edna moved to Kingsthorpe and made a special group of friends when Edna joined the WI, and the husbands joined in the social circle.

In 1982 Roger retired – which he thoroughly enjoyed. He had time to enjoy his family, especially when his adored Grandchildren Belle and Nick came to stay on their 'own holidays'.

Roger and Edna happily celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in July 2016.

Roger was involved in the community, joining Edna in delivering meals on wheels 'to the old people' for over 30 years until 90 years of age.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for March 2017

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.

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The Book Exchange will be on the mornings of **Saturday 4th March** and **Saturday 1st 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.

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 March** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

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

He was treasurer of the gardening club, and printed the village newsletter for many years.

Roger was a proud member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists for over 30 years, taking his final Advanced Motorist test at 92 years before giving up driving for health reasons at 93.

Until Christmas 2016, Monday lunch time saw Roger at the Black Swan in Much Dewchurch for a pint of bitter shandy ("more shandy than bitter") where he thoroughly enjoyed putting the world to rights and the banter with 'the Monday Club'.

Roger was in and out of hospital since Christmas but he eventually died on 31st January. Both Margaret and Sian have been a tower of strength to their parents over the years and particularly over the last 12 months.

We send to Edna and her family our deepest sympathy.

The death of **Mrs. Joyce Wilden** is also sadly noted.

Joyce was born 77 years ago at Hole in the Wall, near Ross on Wye. Her parents had a small holding and she was at home with cows, pigs and fruit trees from which cider and dairy produce was made. Tragedy struck the family as her moth Donations in memory of Roger were given to ' Little Princess Trust' and it was fitting that light refreshments were served at the Black Swan, Much Dewchurch. er died when she was just 6 years old and she and her brother, Albert, were brought up by her father.

After schooling, Joyce took a job at Woolworth's in Hereford where she met John and they started courting.

John was involved in a very serious motorbike accident when his pillion passenger was killed and John was in a coma with many broken bones. Joyce said that she loved him so much that even if he was confined to a wheelchair, she would push him everywhere! John was made of stern stuff though and he pulled through and walked again and worked hard all his life.

Once the recovery was well underway, plans were made for the wedding and they were married in 1959 and lived in the Almshouses at Weston under Penyard. In due time, Michael, Chris and Heather were born and by this time the family had moved to Austena in Little Birch Road.

Joyce set about making the new bungalow a home, filled with happy memories and times. She worked as a child minder, in the early years and then once the children were more or less independent, she went to work for the Council as a 'home help' and was much loved in the area. In the early days she cycled in the area and later graduated to a moped. She loved having children around not only her own three but others from the village would drop in for a cake or welsh cake.

Joyce was blessed with 'green fingers' and she was always in the garden whenever time permitted.

She always had a well stocked garden with vegetables and flowers in abundance.

Joyce always made her house a home and when the children left home to find new partners of their own and she loved having the grandchildren to visit and made sure that Daniel and Olivia and Simon, James and Samuel were well entertained. When John retired from his truck stop at Allensmore, Joyce and John would go off with a packed lunch and flask to the river in Ross or to the Forest of Dean.

Chris came back home to live in 2009 and Joyce and John

provided him with space where he could be and it provided a place of security in a time of trouble.

When John died in 2014, things changed again when Joyce was diagnosed with cancer. Chris looked after her so well but died in 2016. Michael and Heather in turn slept at home to keep an eye on Joyce. When there was no further worthwhile treatment, Joyce was cared for by the Hospice at Home Service and was visited by neighbour, Jenny Caton, twice a day to give her breakfast and lunch. She had given her life and love to her family and was blessed with no pain in the last few weeks. She had been well looked after by the Surgery doctors.

Her funeral service was held at the Crematorium on Friday, Feb. 17th. conducted by Rev. Preb. Mark Johnson from whose address these notes are duly acknowledged. Donations in memory of Joyce were given to St. Michael's Hospice.

It is with great sadness that we record the untimely death of **Ted Suckling** of Wormelow. We send to Shirley (nee Crum) and her family our deepest sympathies.

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If you can, please Gift Aid your donation

The Gift Aid scheme enables us to claim an extra 25p for each £1 donated at no extra cost to the donor. So, if Gift Aided, a sofa sold for £100 would mean a total of £125 raised for your Hospice.

giftaid it

St Michael's Hospice provides all its care free of charge to patients, their families and carers. This care is made possible by supporters taking part in fundraising events, playing our Lottery, shopping at our retail outlets, making charitable donations and leaving gifts in their wills.

Rural Hub Herefordshire



The latest newsletter from the Herefordshire Rural Hub can be found on the website using the link below:-

<http://www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/newsletter-library/>

Frances Keogh

Herefordshire Rural Hub Administrator

Email: admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Tel: **01432 268 428**

Website: www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk

Twitter: @Hfds_RuralHub

You can also find us on Facebook by searching for 'Herefordshire Rural Hub'

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



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Much Birch

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Wednesday 9th March 10:30am - 12:30pm
Little Birch Village Hall

All members of the communities of Kingsthorne, The Birches and Aconbury are warmly invited to an informal coffee morning. Please come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, some cake or a biscuit. Make new friends or catch up with old friends, have a chat and find out more about the local community.

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.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

at Much Birch Community Hall

BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday 4th March

2.30pm SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS PG

7.30pm CAFÉ SOCIETY 12A

Tickets £5 (£4 under 16s)

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

Tuesday 28th March –

THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS 12A

This breath-taking story is set to remind us all of the infinite power of love, the overwhelming fear of loss and the complexities of human nature that bind the two. When lighthouse keeper Tom Sherbourne (Michael Fassbender) and his adored wife Isabel (Alicia Vikander) discover a baby adrift in a boat off the remote coast off western Australia, they must make a choice. When they decide to raise the child as their own, the shattering consequences of this choice will change their lives forever.

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Coming soon...

Thursday 27th April - A UNITED KINGDOM 12A

Tuesday 23rd May - ALLIED 15

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please call 01981 540097

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

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

FLICKS IN THE STICKS



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

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1st March

St Patricks Day
celebration 17th March



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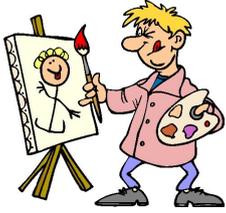
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FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS





KILPECK ART CLUB **NEW MEMBERS WANTED!**

Kilpeck Art Club has just begun its spring season.

We meet in Kilpeck Village Hall on Monday afternoons from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm until June 12.

We are hoping to attract new members this session so please come along for a free taster session. Artists of all levels of ability are welcome.

Weather permitting, it is possible to sketch outdoors in this beautiful village. It may be possible to arrange lifts. For more information please ring Margaret Bircher, 01432 870587, or Jenny Davies, 01981 241103.

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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

History talk on Brian Hatton's farm paintings to be given by Rob-in Thorndyke on Thursday March 30th in Little Birch Village Hall. More details in April newsletter

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:- 1st March and 5th 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

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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.

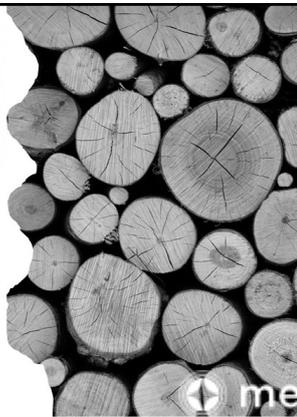
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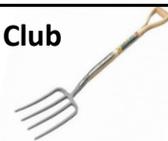
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King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club



The Club's AGM takes place on 29th. March in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Reports of Club activities over the past 12 months will be given together with the programme of Speakers for the coming season.

Refreshments will be served and the opportunity to renew membership fees.

New members are always welcome.

John Bryant 01981 540316.

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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:

March 9th April 6th May 4th June 8th July
6th September 7th October 5th November
2nd and December 7th

15th February 2017

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th February at the Much Birch Community Hall.

The next meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, for 2017, would be held on the following dates and were open to all. All meetings would 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. All offers of help, and input to the process, will be gratefully received.

Dates are: 2 March; 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 9th March 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
Tel. 01981 540703

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

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

CLlr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail tjsj@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

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

CLlr David Baldwin The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS 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.

South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT

West Mercia Police



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