



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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

June 2017. First published 1977.. Happy 40!



FAMILY FARM OPEN DAY

23rd July 2017 – 12pm till 4pm

Merrivale Farm will be opening its doors so you all see what we get up to on an organic dairy farm. Come and join us on Sunday 23rd July, meet our dairy cows and calves and watch the cows being milked by our robotic milking machines. Also enjoy a tractor and trailer ride on the farm

Tickets are £5 for adults & £3 for children (under 12)

**This includes a tractor & trailer ride
and a yummy cream tea!**

All proceeds of the day are going to Cancer Research

**Merrivale Farm, Little Birch,
Hereford. HR2 8BA
Tel: 01981 540032**



Church Services June 2017



4th June LBirch 11am CW Communion
Pentecost

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

18th. June Benefice Service at Llanwarne in the Old Church

25th June MBirch 09.15 Matins
LBirch 11am BCP Communion

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

Diary Dates

May 2017

- 23rd Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
- 26th Village Market MBCH
- 27th Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am
- 31st Gardening Club LBVH

June 2017

- 10th County Rally
- 10th "Jazz in June" MBCH
- 13th MB Launch Event MCCH 7pm
- 15th-17th "BLACKADDER" LBVH
- 27th AGM LBVH

July 2017

- 1st Coffee Morning MBCH
- 8th Little Birch Church Fete
- 23rd Open Day Merivale Farm

The Royal British Legion Herefordshire County Rally

*Hosted by St. Weonards & District Branch
Venue. The Village of Llanwarne on Sat. 10th June 2017
Parade commences at 2pm from the Village Cenotaph
Followed by a Church Service at 3pm.*

*There will be afternoon refreshments Stalls and a
Raffle as well as a BBQ and afternoon Bar
Car parking will be available.
Follow the signs from the A466 to Llanwarne*



A Fundraiser

A Coffee Morning with cake and other stalls will be held in Much Birch Community Hall on Saturday 1st July at 10.30am until 12.30 pm. Proceeds for the Much Birch Church Fabric Fund.

Please send copy for the July Newsletter to
editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to John
Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.
—by **18th June** please.

Local News June 17



Congratulations go to Christine and Peter Dowsett who raised over £500 at their plant sale and coffee morning on Fri. 12th April in aid of Cancer Buddies. What a splendid result!

Sadly there have been four more deaths in the community this past few weeks.

Anne Hyde - Smith of Llanwarne passed away on 28th March and was well known in the area for Delivering Meals on Wheels for over 30 years. We send our sympathy to daughter, Laura and her family and to son, Richard.

Chris Savage of King's Thorn passed away the day after his 65th. birthday on April 10th.

Chris was born in Hackney, East London to Doris and Jim Savage and 5 years later Robin was born. Chris took his schooling quite seriously. As most young boys wanted, he acquired a small motorbike. He had a 'minor brush' with the police whilst on a provisional licence, but before the case came to court, Chris had passed both the motor cycle test and car driving test.

He took an apprenticeship as a car mechanic and in turn worked for Henlys and then moved on to fitting Coda car alarms. He was always interested in model car racing and built chassis's in the early years out of copper piping.

He went on to work for Radio Rentals and eventually for TV Rentals. At this time he met Judy, and sped up to Coventry at the weekends. He bought an old box shaped Ford Anglia, dropped the front suspension and fitted a



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1500cc engine. Journey time from London to Coventry record must have been broken on several occasions but he was never caught for speeding!

He eventually married Judy and they had Leigh, Christopher and Holly together. Sadly, the marriage did not last.

When Chris moved into King's Thorn some 18 years ago, he was working for Advanced In Car Entertainment fitting DVD players and small TV's into cars. He was sent by the firm to new product launches in the USA and Far Eastern Countries and had to recommend new products worthy of possible exploitation.

He was interested in ornamental fish and installed a large aquarium in a unit he had built himself alongside the TV. He also constructed a large outdoor fish tank with a circulating pump and spray mast which was kept going all the year round to prevent freezing.

He met Ping some 12 years ago and after a whirlwind romance, they married in China.

Over the last 10 years he became a computer expert and was a very good neighbour to Betty and John Bryant. He joined ATS some 7 years ago as a tyre inspector and got on well with the various haulage firms and their staff.

Chris was never a gardener but built some raised beds for Ping to grow garlic, runner beans, strawberries and potatoes.

His interest in model car racing revived when he joined the

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Hereford Club but later joined the Abergavenny Club and started to build his own track in his garage. This was completed about a year ago and several Club members were invited to use it from time to time.

He was very proud that Ping had passed the City and Guild exams in Hairdressing and that her son, Yong, had obtained his degree in Accountancy at Sheffield University.

Chris had been unwell for the last 3 months and eventually had to go to the County Hospital for tests. His brother, Robin, came to stay and ferried Ping to the hospital twice a day.

Chris came home on 31st March and Ping has given outstanding care and Dr. Seftel kept a close eye on Chris and the District Nurses based at Belmont gave their expert nursing care.

Chris was determined to make his 65th birthday on April 10th but despite a determined fight sadly died the following day. Ping received great support from Dr. Seftel and her friends Fiona from Kingstone and Li Jian from Wrigglebrook. The Palliative Care Nurse, Sue Horton, gave outstanding care and comfort on that day and Yan and Russell were of great comfort that evening when others had to leave with family commitments and before Yong arrived home from Manchester.

We extend to Ping and Yong and to Robin our deepest sympathies and they would like to acknowledge the many phone calls, Sympathy cards and gifts of flowers which have been overwhelming in their support at this very sad time.

A Service was held at Little Birch Church to Celebrate the Life of Margaret Mullins, known to most as 'Maggie', on May 8th conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson. Maggie died on April 17th, aged 85 years.

Maggie was born at Laburnam House, on, as she would as she would insist Laburnam Lane (aka as Parish Lane – she never liked that 'new' name!!)

An only child, the family soon moved to Castle Nibole at the beginning of the war. The house was always full to bursting with paying guests and evacuees from the South East, she would never know where she would sleep invariably it was up in the attics, but sometimes it would be in a 'proper' bedroom. She was initially educated at home, but soon moved to Little Birch School, before moving to the Redcap School and then finally Hereford High School where she gained her school certificate.

In 1955 she met and married Basil Mullins and they started their married life at Sunny Bank Farm, it was here that Sarah and Kate were born. In 1975 Sunny Bank was sold and the family moved to Crows Nest, this was her favourite home, she oversaw the extension and improvements, and created a beautiful garden, and it broke her heart to have to leave there when, in 1985 they had to move back to the

Little Birch & Aconbury's Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan

At the next meeting of the Steering Group, the Consultant Dr. David Nicholson, will be explaining the **Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan** he will have produced, following the discussion about David's 'Housing Delivery Report' at the last meeting in April.

The work is still currently under way by David and will show how the two parishes can meet Herefordshire Council's requirement for additional homes.

However the Draft Plan is much more than just how to meet housing targets. There will be many environmental issues such as the ones raised in the Questionnaires that were returned at the end of 2016. These reflect the kind of 'Neighbourhood' we would all like to see in the future. When completed, the **Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan** will be delivered to all households in Aconbury and Little Birch for consultation.

Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings and there is no long term commitment to be part of the Steering Group, so if you wish to be part of the decision process, remember that the next meeting at Little Birch Village Hall is on Wednesday 26 July at 7pm. At that meeting the Steering Group will be discussing the Draft Plan, and those present will be able to suggest any amendments.

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.

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farm - Castle Nibole following the death of her Father. Again lots of improvement and a massive undertaking to bring the garden back to its' former glory. Her last move was in 1994 when she and Basil moved into the retirement bungalow Castle Fields. The accommodation may have been new, but again another garden to design and dig, a job she relished.

Dogs, working but mainly showing played a huge part in her life. She started showing in the mid sixties. She created a well known kennel under the affix of Athelwood (a shortened version of Athelstan Wood). She bred champions in Welsh Springers and Dachsunds, and latterly in Sussex Spaniels. Every weekend for years were spent showing the dogs country wide, she served on many committees, including the Three Counties, Hereford Canine Soc. and was, for many years Chairman of the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club, and she was always generous with advice and support to any potential new doggy owner. She was a popular judge, and judged at many shows including Crufts twice (the first to ever in Welsh Springers) the second time being the millennium Crufts in 2000, a real honour within the doggy world.

Maggie was a huge character, she simply loved people, she had a ready wit and relished in lively conversation always with a smile. She was so proud of staying in the village all her life, she measured her moves in fields - her last home just ½ a field from her first! Although she was diagnosed with dementia, she still lived at her home with the help of Kemble Care, Ruth Owen and Annette Hoyes, plus Kate who lived next door. She loved her garden, dogs and general gossip, she loved people and hugely enjoyed seeing any visitors that called by.

Sarah and Kate and families would like to thank everyone who attended Maggies' thanksgiving service, and for the many wonderful cards and messages received. She will be sadly missed by so many and we send our sincere condolences to daughters, Sarah and Kate, to son in laws, Alan and John and to grandchildren, Claire and Simon and James and Joanna.

There was standing room only for the funeral service of John Francis Roberts at the Forest of Dean Crematorium on 17th May. such was the regard in which he was held. Friends from the Much Birch Surgery and from the local community gathered to say 'Farewell' to a very popular friend and business man. John died at the age of 77 years and the Service was conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson. Ben Roberts gave the eulogy on behalf of the family and the following is a brief extract from his tribute.

John was born in Farnham, Surrey, on 30th. Sep. 1938 to Gladys and Frank Roberts. His father was called up for service in WW11 was captured and John did not see him again until he was 6 years old. On the day of his father's homecoming, John stood outside his Gran's house waving



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a flag until he saw a soldier coming towards him with a kitbag over his shoulder. It was of course his father.

John left school at 15 and his first job was sewing 27inch wide strips of carpet into larger squares, for the princely sum of £2 per week. He then went to JS Furniture in Aldershot as a carpet estimator's assistant. His friend, Tony Crossly, set up the Reading Carpet Co. until he joined the RAF.

John always had an interest in aircraft and would cycle miles to Blackbushe and Heathrow Airports with his friend Brian to see aircraft landing and taking off and noting their numbers. This was to stand him in good stead when he did his National Service in the RAF as a wireless operator.

He served overseas in Cyprus and Aden and visited Libya and Sudan.

John married his first wife, Pauline, in 1962 and they had 4 children together, Steven, Tim, James and Emma. He came to Hereford in 1964 to work at Eastern Carpet Stores and he eventually bought a house in Redhill for £3225.

John and Pauline's marriage ended but they remained friends and the 2 families regularly visited each other.

John met up with Lynette Teague in of all places Majorca when they were both on a Hereford United trip. They were

married in 1974 in Peterstow Church and went to live in Hereford.

They later bought 'Bellwood' in Little Birch now occupied by Mara and Dr. Davies, and in due time had 4 children, Ben, Lucy, Emily and Alice. Steven also lived at Bellwood and would make everyone a cup of tea to start the day. James, Tim and Emma would often stay in school holidays.

In 1985 the family moved to 'Lynwood' built by the late Tim Dillon, turning it into a lovely family home, transforming the garden and extending the house.

John established 'Wye Bridge Carpets' in Bridge Street, Hereford and ran it for 23 years, and became a well respected businessman, affectionately known simply as 'The Carpetman'. He was a governor of Much Birch School and a helper at 1st. Much Birch Cub Scouts. He also took part in several pantomimes, channelling his 'inner Frank Spencer' into various roles. He also served on the Village Hall committee at one stage. He was a founding member of the 'Compost Heap' and quietly fitted and gave the carpets at Little Birch Church. The family's had many wonderful holidays in France, John's favourite holiday spot.

Always a 'savvy' businessman and knew the economy was changing, he sold Wye Bridge Carpets in 1990 and started a new business, working from home and taking samples of carpet to peoples homes. There could only ever be one name for this new business, 'Carpetman' and with John Handley fitting the carpets and John doing the estimating, the business grew and became a success. Working from home enabled John to become head chef and as Lynette was working full time at Much Birch Surgery, the children remember John cooking delicious meals and wonderful bread. He would help get the children off to school in the mornings and pick them up in the evenings.

John retired in 2005 but always kept himself busy with a list of jobs to do left by Lynette. He has had several health issues over the years, suffering with 3 types of cancer and

more recently from dementia. Despite all of this, he remained active and very cheerful and will be remembered by many as they would see him out on his daily walks around the village, stick in hand waving to every house and car that passed.

He will be remembered as a modest and kind man, always smiling, who loved his family, always had time for a chat and would help anyone. We send our sincere sympathies to Lynette and her family, John's first family, cousins, brothers in law and to his many friends.

John was also quite a romantic at heart and a bit of a poet, and the following is a poem that he wrote for Lynette,

*My love for you just grows and grows
Just like the lovely English Rose
Your kindness, love and beauty is just like champagne
It makes me fizz
So don't you change you lovely girl
My love for you is just one whirl!*

Donations in memory of John are for St. Mary's, Little Birch.

King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

On Wed. 31st May, Alun and Jill Whitehead, who hold the National Collection of Siberian Irises and will give an illustrated talk on 'Irises for the Natural Garden'. This will be followed up with a visit to Aulden Farm, where the Collection is held, on Wed. June 28th.



Everyone is welcome to attend Gardening Club Nights and hopefully, they will prove of interest so you might wish to join the Club. The fee is £10 per year.

For more details call John Bryant on 01981 540316.

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Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The may draw took place on 14th April 2017 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am and the results were as follows:

1 st prize – 44	2 nd prize - 82
Rev. M. Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. E. Joseph
Much Birch	Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 11th June 2017 in Much Birch Community Hall.

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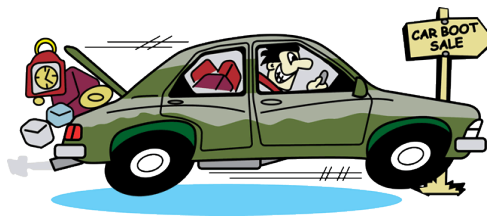
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Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for June & July 2017

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 Drives** are on **Tuesday 13th June and Tuesday 11th July** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Little Birch Drama Group present Blackadder II (Bells, Head and Potato)

15th, 16th & 17th June 7:30pm at Little Birch Village Hall

Tickets available from Margaret: 01981 540374
or Jackie: 01981 541027
£10 each to include supper

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The Book Exchange will be on the morning of **Saturday 24th June and Saturday 22nd July** 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.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee AGM

The **Little Birch Village Hall Committee** are a small group of people who with the support of local community groups and individuals promote and provide social activities and events for the community.

We are always on the 'look out' for people who are willing and able to support 'one off' local events (e.g. LBVH Annual Dog Show) as well as volunteers who might be interested and have time to join the committee (time commitment one evening meeting a month).

This year at our AGM and following a number of years of generous and unstinting service Sue Jones who manages LBVH bookings is stepping down from this role. If you feel you may be able to take on this role and would like more information please contact the Chairman John Bryant or Sue (01981 540682).

All members of the community are invited to join us at the **LBVH AGM 2017** which will provide an opportunity not only to celebrate and placed on record achievements of the past year but also to receive ideas and consult about future developments for your community hall.

We look forward to welcoming you on

Tuesday 27 June 7.30pm at Little Birch Village Hall



Music from Steve Constance & The Monnow Jazz Quartet
whilst you enjoy strawberries and fizz!
Saturday 10th June 2017
7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)
Much Birch Community Hall
Tickets £10, (to include strawberries and a glass of fizz) Children £5
Call 01981 540097 or 01981 540980 for tickets
Proceeds for Much Birch Community Hall Development

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MUCH BIRCH PARISH

Neighbourhood Development Plan
Planning for the Future

The Parish Plan includes Housing, Leisure, Sport,
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We need your views.....

LAUNCH EVENT

In the

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Tuesday 13 June 2017

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Between 2.00pm and 7.00pm

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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.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome. Please contact Sallie on 01432 340069 for further details.

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Special Events

at The Castle Inn this Summer

Saturday 10th June

Royal Birthday Garden Party 1pm-4pm

Sunday 18th June—Father's Day.

Book now to secure a table

Saturday 24th June—Band Night

"Joey and the Crow" 8pm till late

Friday 30th June 12-3pm

and Saturday 1st July 12-4pm

"Bake for Bliss" (Charity Cake Sale)

Little Birch Village Hall
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Blackadder
Three episodes from *Blackadder II*
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and Saturday, 17th., June
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We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Sunday 25th June 2017 from 2.00 p.m.

Violette Szabo GC Celebration Day
at Cartref House, Tump Lane, Wormelow.

We are greatly looking forward to welcoming Ray Mears, who has kindly accepted to be the guest speaker. It is also lovely to know that we are to have the special company of Virginia McKenna, once again. We also have a young lady called Ruby Ann coming to sing songs from the War years!

Everyone who would care to come and to join this great event to Violette's life will be most welcome!

I would be most grateful if Guest might be kind enough to bring some refreshments, one or two garden chairs and perhaps a small folding table.

Inquiries to Rosemary E. Rigby MBE 01981 540477

A reminder, please, that all new articles or advertising copy for inclusion in this Newsletter should now be sent to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk

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

Little Birch Parish Council

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

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

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.

Meeting 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



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'

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

15th May 2017

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th May at the Much Birch Community Hall.

Those present heard that, in addition to the planned meetings listed below, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be holding a Launch Event on 13th June 2017 in the Much Birch Community Hall from 2.00pm to 7.00pm. All are welcome to pop in at a time convenient for them. There will be an opportunity to find out more about the process and to put forward ideas. Flyers to publicise the Event will be coming out beforehand.

Dates for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings are: 1 June; 29 June; 31 August; 28 September; 26 October; 30 November.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 6th July 2017 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. **Please note that there is NO Meeting of the Parish Council in June.**

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, Kingthorne, 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, Kingthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail a.crum@btinternet.com
Tel. 01981 540002
Cllr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingthorne, 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.

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

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:

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

South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT

West Mercia Police

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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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