



THE **Birches**

A NEWSLETTER FOR KINGSTHORN,
MUCH BIRCH, LITTLE BIRCH & ACONBURY

First published 1977 **February 2019**

Parish Walk

Sunday 3 February

Walking from Little Birch Village Hall through Aconbury Wood to Tar's Mill, returning along part of the 'Green Drive' and through Merrivale Farm to Little Birch - approximately 4.75 miles.

An afternoon walk starting at **1.30pm** to avoid the clay pigeon shooting.

All welcome!

Angela Middleton
Voluntary Footpath Officer
01981 540377 or ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk



Diary Dates

January 2019

25-26th LB Panto
30th Gardening Club LBVH

February 2019

3rd Parish Walk from LBVH 1.30pm
4th Longtown Historical Society see P3
5th Artspace LBVH
6th LB Parish Council LBVH 7.30pm
21st History Talk LBVH
26th "Flicks in the Sticks" MBCH
27th Gardening Club LBVH
28th Much Birch Parish Council MBCH

March 2019

8th MB Playgroup Coffee Morning



Church Services January 2019

Sunday 3rd February -
Candlemas or The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
11.00 a.m. Little Birch CW Communion

Sunday 10th February - 4th Sunday before Lent
9.15 a.m. Much Birch Family Communion
11.00 a.m. Little Birch Morning Worship

Sunday 17th February - 3rd Sunday before Lent
9.15 a.m. Much Birch CW Communion
11.00 a.m. Little Birch Traditional Language Communion

Sunday 24th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent
9.15 a.m. Much Birch Morning Worship

Sunday 3rd March - Sunday next before Lent
11.00 a.m. Little Birch CW Communion

Wednesday 6th March - Ash Wednesday
10.30 a.m. Much Dewchurch Service of Imposition of Ashes

Every Thursday at 9.30 a.m. Much Birch Church - Holy Communion.

arts
alive

FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS

at Much Birch
Community Hall

Tuesday 26th February, 7.30 pm -
KING OF THIEVES 15

A true crime film about a crew of retired crooks who pull off a major heist in London's jewellery district. What starts off as their last criminal hurrah quickly turns into a brutal nightmare due to greed. Based on infamous true events.

Starring Michael Caine, Michael Gambon, Jim Broadbent, Tom Courtenay and a host of other stars.

Refreshments including hot dogs available from 7pm

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Coming up in March...

BORDERLINES Thursday 14th March - THE SEAGULL 12A
FILM FESTIVAL Saturday 16th March - A STAR IS BORN 15
2019 Borderlines Tickets: £5/£4 Under 16s

April to May...

Tuesday 30th April - STAN AND OLLIE 12A

Thursday 23rd May - THE WIFE 15

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com or 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

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for February 2019

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 7th February 10:30am - 12:30pm** at **Little Birch Village Hall**.

Join us 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 and let us know your thoughts and suggestions as to how we can develop these regular meetings.

If you need help with transport please contact Margaret: 01981 540374

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** will be on **Tuesday 12th February** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next Book Exchange will be on the morning of **Saturday 16th February** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12noon**. 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.

Other events in February

6th February - LBPC meeting
21st February – History talk (copy to be sent separately by History Group Members)
27th February – Gardening Club (copy will be sent separately)

Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club



Forthcoming meetings:-

On Wednesday 30th January, 2019 the speaker will be Roger Umpelby with a talk entitled “Bees, what’s all the fuss about?”. Roger is another of our returning favourites. He is an entomologist and passionate gardener. With all the recent concerns about our bee populations this will be an interesting evening.

Wednesday 27th February, 2019 the speaker will be Don Everitt who will talk about “Autumn, the forgotten season”. Don is a very knowledgeable speaker and will be advising on Autumn colour just before the planting season so that we can choose our plants wisely.

We would love to see some new faces who would be most welcome to join us at Little Birch Village Hall.

History talk

Herefordshire is fortunate to have a number of old and interesting churches and Tim Bridges, Diocese and Church Building Support Officer, knows more about them than most of us.

On Thursday February 21st Tim is coming to talk to us about his specialist knowledge in a talk entitled “**Looking after the churches of Herefordshire**”. He will cover the architecture and history of our local churches.

This should be a very interesting talk. It will take place in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30. Entry £2.50 to include light refreshments.

TEA ON THE TRAIL

AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE BIRCH

Refreshments for walkers

Enjoy a break for a cup of tea or coffee



Donations to cover costs and for much needed renovation work at St Mary's Church.

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Facebook community group:

For those who use social media, St Michael's Hospice has launched a community forum on Facebook.

It is a closed group for supportive conversation between families, patients and people connected to the Hospice.

If you think you might benefit from this group, you can request to join by searching 'St Michael's Hospice Community Forum' on the Facebook search icon, and then click 'Groups'.

Big Spring Walk – Sunday 17th March, 2019:

Spring will soon be with us.

Celebrate this wonderful time of year by enjoying a stroll through our glorious, scenic countryside.

The St Michael's Hospice Big Spring Walk guides you along your choice of four circular routes (2k, 5k, 11k, 16k), all beginning at Fownhope Recreation Ground.

Your walk will be fully signposted, and our team of marshals will be positioned along the paths ready to help you on your way.

There is no cost for this event as long as places are booked in advance online at www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/big-spring-walk/

Paul Broome

Communications Officer, St Michael's Hospice

Tel 01432 852 643

Fax 01432 851 022

st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

facebook.com/stmichaelshospicehereford

twitter.com/stmichaelshosp

Longtown and District Historical Society, 7.30pm Monday 4 February in the village hall

Talk by Ian Bass: "Miracles in the Marches: St Thomas Cantilupe of Hereford"

Membership now costs just £5, Guests £3 per meeting. Please contact jeremy.milln@gmail.com for details. Next talk, March 4, **Professor Helen Nicholson: Templars and Hospitallers in the Marches.**

WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hie.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

 /grammarly

-ANONYMOUS

Do you want to make 2019 a happy, healthy and active year whatever your ability? With so much going on in the press about improving physical and mental health at the moment why not get involved in a local activity which can greatly improve both, not to mention adapting to your needs, socializing and having a giggle. Every Tuesday morning 10:45-11:45 at Kilpeck Village Hall let Zoe put you through your paces at a level that suits you. This adaptable exercise class gives you the opportunity to get active to music whether you wish to put in a higher impact workout or take a gentle seated option. She will guide you through alternative exercises to accommodate various aches, pains and limitations, while keeping your workout light-hearted and fun. Each session also ends with a mindfulness relaxation session to leave you feeling calm and refreshed to continue your week with positivity.

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For more information please contact:
Karen 07817716137 or Lucy lcook8910@gmail.com



**Little Birch &
Aconbury**
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The LB&A draft plan has passed from regulation 16 and is now approaching the **Independent Examination** phase. An examiner has been chosen and it is hoped that they will have started by the end of January.

There is an expectation that this phase will last no longer than six weeks and at the end of this process it will pass. It can then be put to **referendum**.

If more than 50% of those qualifying within the area covered by the NDP vote in favour, it will be adopted by Herefordshire Council. This means that the **Little Birch & Aconbury Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan** will form part of the **Local Development Framework** and be used to determine planning applications for both parishes.

Maybe by the next newsletter we will have a clearer idea of the time scale for the future steps, and we will keep you posted.

For updates and notifications please check out the website – www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org.

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Much Birch Playgroup Coffee Morning

Friday 8th March 10 to 11.30am

Tasty coffee or tea, lovely home made cakes and a raffle

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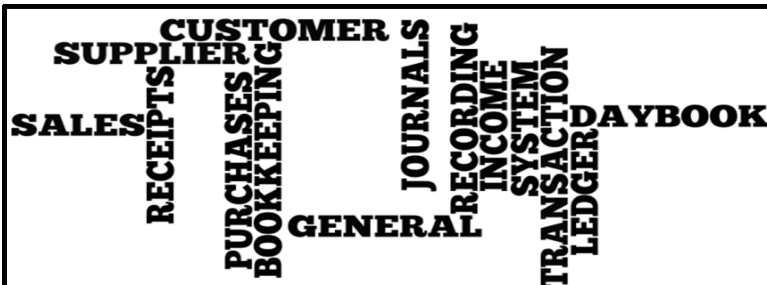
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Ross Library Development Group: All interested are invited to attend our next Talk in the Library on Tuesday evening February 19th 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. with Brian King on the subject of **SCIENCE AND ISLAM**. Entry £4 for RLDG Members and £5 for non-Members, Students free. For more details see the website www.rldg.org.uk

Ross Civic Society Members and visitors are invited to come to the Larruperz Centre on Wednesday February 13th 7.30 p.m. for an illustrated Talk on **TURNASTONE MEADOWS ROWLAND VAUGHAN AND HIS C17TH WATER MEADOWS PROJECT**. The Speaker will be Steve Edwards. Entry fee for visitors £5.00 Members and Students free. For further information ring Ross 562424.

Ross Arts Appreciation Society: Members and visitors are welcome our February Afternoon Tea and Talk. This will be held at Bridstow Village Hall from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday February 2nd. The Tea will be followed by a Talk '**PHILIP LARKIN AND JAZZ**' by Joy Roderick. Cost: £8.00 per person. For details ring Jan Falkiner on 01989 720539 and book your place.

ROSS SCIENCE SOCIETY: On Wednesday, 6th February at the Castle Lodge Hotel, Wilton (just off the roundabout) 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. An illustrated Talk on **THE INTERNET AND THE SILICON CHIP** with Speaker Jeff Williams. Entry £4. for visitors, £16 for a year subscription. Students free. See the website www.rosssciencesociety.org.uk All welcome.

ARTSPACE PLUS!

Artspace will be running again in January but **BIGGER AND BETTER!**

IT WILL NOW INCLUDE A WRITING GROUP.

An informal group providing a great opportunity to enjoy collective creative writing. No geniuses - everyone else welcome, whether or not you have done anything like this before. Do come along and have a go - you might uncover hidden talents - or at least have a fun time!

Both Artspace and Write On! will be held at LBVH 3-5pm on Thursdays for 6 weeks from 10th January - 14th February 2019

Have a happy Christmas and hope to see you at Artspace/Write On! in the New Year (go on treat yourself!)



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Wassailing

Each January for the past few years groups of people have taken part in a traditional Wassailing ceremony in a local orchard to encourage a bountiful apple crop. Returning to the village hall participants were entertained by the Compost Heap group, other invited entertainers and a collection made for charities.

This year the crowd in the orchard was probably the largest attracted to Little Birch since June 2012 at the time of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. If tradition is to be believed then the volume of noise they generated will result in a record apple crop!

Entertainment started with the much anticipated well appreciated Mummings Play written and performed as usual by members of the Compost Heap with help from Peter Garlic.

Believe it or not they spoke entirely in rhyme and acted as Angela Merkel, Winston Churchill, Doctor Who, King Henry VIII, a dinosaur and a Dalek and it did make comedic sense!

Kay and Peter Garlic sang delightful traditional wassailing songs from other parts of the country. Tony Mobley returned to recite his poems, spoken in a West Midlands accent, that caused great amusement including one that posed the puzzling question "is it possible to experience de-ja vu for the first time?".

Singer, songwriter, guitar-player Phil Heinrich sang his songs and was joined by the loud enthusiastic audience for the choruses.

The evening was rounded off by the Compost Heap who sang wassailing and other songs in their usual entertaining way leaving the audience asking for more.

The evening included supper, a raffle and an auction of articles donated by Ellie Goulding. More than £1400 was raised for the Haven breast cancer charity,

Little Birch is fortunate to experience such a high standard of entertainment by local people and is to be congratulated for generously donating to a deserving charity.

Please send copy for the March Newsletter to
editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions
to Liz Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2
8AW.

—by 18th February please.

Great Local Food & Drink in Much Birch

All Day Every Day



New Year Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a great 2018 here at the Pilgrim, we are all delighted to have made so many new friends and met some longstanding ones again.

I'm sure you will be as pleased as we are that we have a refurbishment programme underway and we will have some gorgeous, **individually designed** rooms available from the end of January. We have contracted an exciting interior designer, who has worked on some prestigious projects in the past and our "Country Collection" of mainly **King sized** rooms will be a fabulous addition to the Hotel. The rooms are being decorated and furnished in a comfortable country style with new furniture, curtains and lighting all to match the brief.

[For those with a good memory, rooms 12-17 on the first floor of the red brick extension, all with stunning views are the first ones to be re-decorated and re-furnished].

We are offering these rooms to our previous guests at "pre-launch" prices so please grab a great deal and come back to the Wye Valley soon.

Best wishes & Happy New Year

Steve & your Team

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Meeting of the
Hereford Civic Society
Thursday 21st February
7.30pm Kindle Centre besides Hereford ASDA, HR2 7JE

Life in an Early Modern Hereford Suburb.

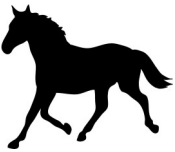
The Rich and the Poor in St. Martin's Parish

Illustrated talk by the well known local author and historian David Whitehead

Society Membership £15pa. Visitor: £3 donation

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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

**Neighbourhood Development Plan –
Much Birch Parish**

The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Much Birch is progressing well with a “call for sites” having taken place. The outcome of this exercise is now being evaluated and will form part of the Neighbourhood Plan written for the parish. There will be a further **Consultation Day**, to which all are invited, on Saturday 16th March 2019 from 10.00am to 4.00pm when there will be the opportunity to see how things have progressed to date.

Please also see below for future Steering Group Meeting dates:

**Dates of Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Group Meetings for 2019**

All to be held at Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm

31 January, 28 February, 28 March, 2nd May, 30 May, 27 June, 29 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November. Please remember that your opinion, and any input to the plan, is welcomed at all stages of the process. Meetings are public and open to all.

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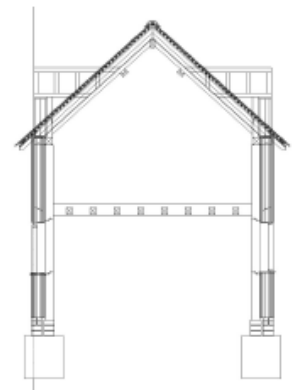
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Tuesday—pizza night 5pm - 11pm

Wednesday—steak night 5pm - 11pm

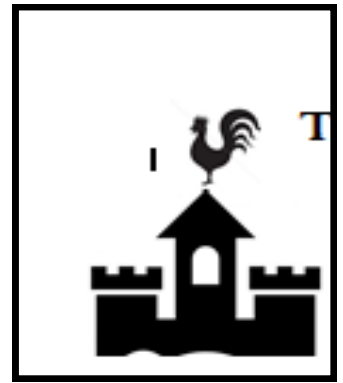
Thursday—pie night 5-11pm

Friday 5-11pm

Saturday all day

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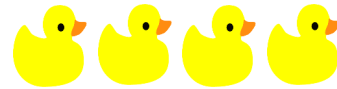
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Little Birch Parish Council

For updates and notifications of future meetings please check out the website – www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org.

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

CLlr Ben Roberts	Chairman	07702 760789	b3nroberts@gmail.com
Peter Rees		01981 541356	panddrees@gmail.com
CLlr Mike Morley		01981 541027	morley04@globalnet.co.uk
CLlr Annette Wissler		Contact through the clerk	
CLlr Janet Gwinnett		01981 540651	janetgwinnett@hotmail.com
Angela Middleton	Volunteer Foot Paths Officer	01981 540377	ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk
Sophie Glover	PC Clerk	01432 270499	littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council meetings usually happen at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month and all parishioners 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.

Thank you.

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

Website: www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

Little Birch Parish Facebook Group



Find the latest news, events and business listings all in one place.

You are welcome to promote your local business, advertise a local event or post news or information of interest to the village and surrounding area.

Search for *Little Birch Parish Group* on Facebook

Yoga



In Much Dewchurch and Steiner Academy
Mondays 6.00—7.15

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

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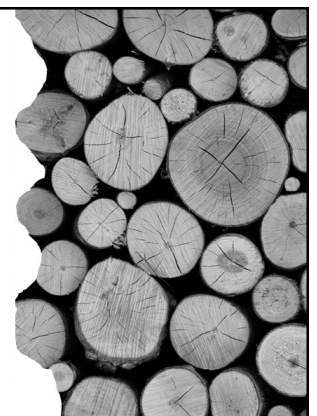
We are looking for volunteers to go on a monthly rota to help us keep Much Birch Churchyard tidy. We do have someone to mow the grass regularly but we need volunteers to generally tidy up e.g. sweep the path, get rid of weeds and accumulated rubbish in the corners and remove dead flowers from graves. We would be so grateful for this help and you do not have to be members of the congregation. Please contact the Churchwarden, Sylvia Jones tel. 01981 540980 if you can help.

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11th January 2019

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd January 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall. A new Footpath Officer was appointed for the Parish. He is Mr Steve Owens. A "thank you" is recorded to Steve for volunteering to help with the process of keeping the network of paths usable. The Parish Council and those present heard more about the progression of the Much Birch Neighbourhood Plan and there would be further opportunities for the public to engage with the process coming up. There was a reminder of a forthcoming **Consultation Day**, to which all are invited, on Saturday 16th March 2019 from 10.00am to 4.00pm when there will be the opportunity to see how things have progressed to date.

Please also see below for future Steering Group Meeting dates:

Dates of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings for 2019
All to be held at Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm

31 January, 28 February, 28 March, 2nd May, 30 May, 27 June, 29 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November.

A reminder that the dates for the 2019 Parish Council Meetings are as follows: February 7, March 7, April 4, May 9, June 6, July 4, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 7th February 2019 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 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

Cllr Rosemary Rigby MBE Cartref, Tump Lane, Wormelow, Herefordshire, HR2 8HN Tel. 01981 540477

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>

South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT

West Mercia Police

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