Parish Walk
**Sunday 3 March** at 9am walking from Little Birch Village Hall through Aconbury Woods to Athelstan’s Wood and back to the hall for refreshments.
A moderate walk of 4 miles and probably a little over 2 hours.
Terrain though woods, some stiles, green lanes and roads. If you wish just to do half the walk - I can point you to a shortcut back to LBVH at Model Cottages.

Dawn Chorus Walk
**Easter Sunday 21 April** meeting at Merrivale Farm, Little Birch HR2 8BA at **5.45am** and leave at 6am for a Dawn Chorus Walk in Athelstan's Wood - with Adrian Hodges and Bob Mason - about 3 miles. No dogs.
Afterwards back at the farm for bacon butties/toast & marmalade and tea/coffee.
Donations to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Angela Middleton
Volunteer Footpath Officer
01981 540377

Church Services

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.

THE BIRCHES NEWSLETTER

We need another person to join our small production team to help form a rota for printing this newsletter. We would also find it helpful if we could have ‘distributors’ for the areas around ‘Castle Inn’ and ‘Warren Lane’.

Please contact our editor Liz Hall - editorial@birchesnews.org.uk - thank you.
Coffee Morning
The next coffee morning will be on Thursday 7th March 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 March 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 March 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.

Art Space/Creative Writing/Crafts
21st February until 28th March, Thursdays from 3-5pm at Little Birch Village Hall. £3.00 per session, to pay for hire of the hall and refreshments.
Following on from the Art Space sessions organised by Maz Jooma, the participants enjoyed this so much, they have decided they would like to continue with sessions themselves. Therefore, a further 6 sessions have been arranged. Sessions will be self-directed: drawing, painting, creative writing, knitting, quilting or any other crafts which people are interested in. Bring your own materials and join the group to have a chat and do some craft work.
All are welcome – contact Margaret for further details (01981-540374) or just turn up.

Other events in March
3rd March – Parish Walk 9am from Little Birch Village Hall
5th March – Pancake Evening (5.30pm – 8pm).
6th March - LBPC meeting
14th March – History talk—Local Archaeological Finds
27th March – Gardening Club
29th March – Quiz Evening

History talk. On Thursday March 14th Peter Reavill, the local Finds Officer based in Ludlow, is coming to talk to us about “Local Archaeological Finds”. This will include a whole range of finds made by various methods – digs, metal detecting, chance etc. Peter’s job involves indentifying and dating objects so many of his finds give interesting information about local history. This should be a fascinating talk. If you have anything which you would like Peter to identify, please bring it along. The talk will be in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30. Entry of £2.50 will include light refreshments

Pancake evening – It’s that time again. Tuesday March 5th is Shrove Tuesday so pancakes (lots of them) will be available with a wide range of filling, both savoury and sweet from 5.30 till 7.30. It will save cooking an evening meal for both parents and children! Entry for each person will be £2.50 and will include 2 pancakes. Extras can be purchased at 50p each. Teas, coffees and soft drinks will also be available.

Little Birch Village Annual Quiz
Our annual quiz will take place on Friday March 29th in Little Birch Village Hall. Come along and see if this year your team can win the cup. There will be teams of four but if you can’t make up a team, come along anyway and we should be able to join you up with someone.
The quiz will start at 7.30 but you need to be in your places by 7.15.
Enter fee is £2.00 per person.
Refreshments will be served in the interval.

TREAT 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.
Thank you
Plant Fair:

The third annual Plant Fair at St Michael’s Hospice will be a celebration of the joy of gardening. Taking place on 3rd – 4th May, plant lovers can browse a wide range of herbaceous perennials, bedding plants, annuals, trees, shrubs, alpines, bulbs, carnivorous and indoor plants grown by professional and amateur gardeners. In addition to plants, there will be fresh strawberries and asparagus; beautiful handcrafted wooden jewellery and home decor; cards, prints, coasters and mugs; wild bird food; and pottery and preserves.

This year the Fair, which is free to enter, is expanding into the Hospice’s lower garden - a large, tranquil, open grass area. A golf buggy will transport visitors from the car park to the Plant Fair site. Hot and cold drinks plus fresh, homemade cakes will be available in our newly-refurbished cafe, all day on both days. Delicious two-course lunches will be served between 12pm and 2pm each day. There is no booking necessary for lunches.

A big “thank you” to the Wassailers!

Access line:

01432 852 080 – Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Are you living with a terminal illness, or caring for someone who is? Our free advice and support line is here to help. We understand that it can be a difficult time, and that’s why we’re here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The phone number is a single point of access allowing you to speak confidentially to members of our clinical team who can provide advice and information on subjects like accessing services and controlling symptoms.

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/

A big “thank you” to the Wassailers!

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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
Exciting activities planned for little ones
All moneys raised for the benefit of this special little group
Please come and support this small vital community asset
Harlequin and Columbine

Back in 2006 the late Hilary Gould assembled a group of enthusiastic people who performed the pantomime Treasure Island early the following year in little Birch Village Hall. The three performances were so successful and well attended that the Hall committee has supported performances every year since then.

In the following years new directors came forward and the stage, scenery, lighting and sound system were improved to high standards. Many local people became performers, singers, stage hands, publicists and helpers. Some started as young children, gained experience and confidence, then graduated to leading parts in succeeding years.

The pantomime this year, entitled Harlequin and Columbine, was written, directed and introduced by Frank Ryding. As he explained, the characters originated way back in history and preceded those used in modern pantomimes based on fairy tales.

Audiences filled the hall for all three performances and showed appreciation and enthusiasm by loud laughter, applause, booing and groaning in all the right places. The entire cast should be well pleased with their performances.

Memorable aspects included the stream of malapropisms from Madame Pompadour (Jenny Baldwin), jokes from Pantaloon (Tim Betts), the singing of Punch (Becky Thomas), the scary Scaramouch (Richard Green) and the scatty Pompadour sisters (Jane Bolam and Anita Roberts). The outrageous Dame Elaria was played by Bob Barnett. Title parts of Harlequin and Columbine were convincingly acted by Ellen Green and Tegan Askey.

A delightful group of six excited young people, including three members of the Scrivens family, had speaking parts playing urchins.

The cast and skilful operators behind the scenes, too numerous to mention, combined to produce evenings of excellent entertainment. Thanks to the Drama Group and Little Birch Hall committee for making it possible. We look forward to 2020 when a new version of Treasure Island is expected.

Yoga

In Much Dewchurch and Steiner Academy
Mondays 6.00—7.15
⇒ Tension and stiffness?
⇒ Back ache, backache, general aches and pains?
⇒ Difficulty sleeping?

Learn how to relax and let go. Discover how you can move more freely and improve your posture. A practical approach to yoga that is adaptable to anyone regardless of age or physical condition. All welcome
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For more info contact Mike 01981 250341

Horse/pony/animal help available -
Very helpful, young, teenage, girls are looking to help on a local yard in exchange for a ride (or help with other animals for some pocket money)
07866 006582
Meeting of the Hereford Civic Society
Thursday 21st March
7.30pm Kindle Centre besides Hereford ASDA, HR2 7JE

Hereford’s Surprising Heritage
Illustrated talk by archaeologist Nigel Baker, co-author of the recently published book "Hereford Houses".
The surprising large number of historic houses in the City - perhaps the best kept secret in the Marches!
Society Membership £15pa. Visitor: £3 donation

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herefordcathedral.org

Tuesdays in Lent, 6.45 pm
During Lent, a sculpture entitled ‘Jesus carries the Cross’ by Lottie O’Leary will be exhibited in the South Transept. Each Tuesday in Lent will focus on a different interpretation of the sculpture and will be led by members of the cathedral community. Each will speak at 6.45 pm for around 15 minutes followed by Compline. We will gather for soup and rolls in the retro-choir following Evensong.
12 March – Lottie O’Leary
19 March – Canon Sandy Elliot
26 March – Simon Hudson
2 April – Canon Maureen Palmer
9 April - The Very Rev’d Nick Bury

Thursday 21 March, 12 noon
Choral Scholars Mass
Join us for our Choral Scholar’s Mass in the Lady Chapel followed by a Lent lunch in College Hall. Lunch will be served with musical entertainment. There are limited places available for the lunch. To book your place, please contact Erica on 01432 374259 or erica.manley@herefordcathedral.org

Saturday 23 March, 7.30 pm
Hereford Choral Society present Bach’s Mass in B minor
A glittering compilation of J S Bach’s ‘greatest hits’, completed towards the end of his life, including several skilful revisions of music from his earlier works.
Tickets £10 - £25, available from The Courtyard, Hereford, unreserved tickets available from the Cathedral Shop

Please send copy for the April Newsletter to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to Liz Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorne HR2 8AW.
—by 18th March please.
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<th>Bookkeeping</th>
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Emma Partington has over 10 years experience in the finance industry both in practice and in industry, a local business that is able to help with all your bookkeeping needs.

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Events in March 2019

ROSS LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT GROUP invites all interested to a Talk on Tuesday evening March 19th 2019 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at Ross Library. There will be several speakers from the ROSS MEN’S SHED and they will bring some examples of the things they make/mend. Entry £5.00 for non RLDG Members, and £4 for members. Students free. All the funds raised go towards providing items for the Library. See details on the website www.rldg.org.uk

ROSS SCIENCE SOCIETY will be holding the March illustrated Talk on the second Wednesday in the month, 13th March 2019, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the Castle Lodge Hotel, Wilton. The Speaker will be Dr. Brian Williams and his topic will be 'Wandering Continents, the Evolution of the Atlantic Ocean'. Entry £4.00 p.p. or £16. for the annual subscription. Students Free. All are welcome. There is additional parking opposite the Hotel entrance.

For details see the website: www.rosssciencesociety.org.uk

ROSS CIVIC SOCIETY’s Members and friends will be having an illustrated Talk at the Larruperz Community Centre, Ross, on Wednesday 13th March 2019 on 'The History of Troy House, Monmouth' with the speaker Dr. Ann Benson. The Talks begin at 7.30 p.m. but the room is open for refreshments from 7.00 p.m. Entry is free for Members £5.00 for visitors. Subscriptions are £15.00 p.p. or £25.00 for joint membership. For more details contact the Secretary on 01989 562424

A CALL FOR HELP........
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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Longtown Historical Society Monday 4 March 7.30pm, Longtown Village Hall

PROFESSOR HELEN NICHOLSON (CARDIFF UNIVERSITY): “KNIGHTS TEMPLAR AND KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER IN THE MARCHES”

Guests £3, Membership, (until July) £5. Contact jeremy.milln@gmail.com for information

AN INVITATION TO JOIN

KILPECK ART CLUB

Our Spring season begins on 25 February 2019 and ends on 17 June, with breaks for bank holidays. We meet on Mondays from 2pm–4pm, in Kilpeck Village Hall. There is a small membership charge to cover hall hire. We are always pleased to see new members, including those who want to try painting for the first time.

Just come along for a free taster session.

For information contact Jenny Davies, jen64davies@gmail.com, or Margaret Bircher, tandmbircher@btinternet.com

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust have many local events scheduled throughout 2019.

If you would like to receive updates each month regarding events in your area please let us know. If yes, please let us know your preferred contact name and email address.

Kind regards

Reception
The Herefordshire Wildlife Trust Limited
t: 01432 356872
e: enquiries@herefordshirerwt.co.uk
w: www.herefordshirerwt.org
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

Menus on website www.pilgrimhotel.co.uk
Booking is recommended - 01981 540742

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18 year old babysitter available weekdays/weekends. £6 an hour. Ring 07909 940916 for more details.

Cecily Daffern

Linedance classes in MBCH every Wednesday evening. 7.30pm-9.30pm...£4.00 Not suitable for absolute beginners Contact Jean Harris on 07506718907 for further details or pop along to one of our classes.
Neighbourhood Development Plan – Much Birch Parish

CONSULTATION DAY

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. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome to come along to see how the plan is progressing, to ask any questions plus find out information.

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

28 February, 28 March, 2 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.

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

Results of the 100 club draw which took place on 11th February 2019 in the Community Hall are as follows:

1st prize – No. 21 Mr. E. Joseph
2nd prize - No. 36 Mr. T. Wylor-Owen
3rd prize - 90 Mrs. B. Connolly

The next draw will take place on 14th March 2019 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

Defibrillation Training.

‘When seconds count for a second chance’

A training session has been arranged for Saturday, 13th April 2019 at Much Birch Community Hall at 10am until 11.30am. It will be conducted by an Ambulance Service Training Officer and will be open to any member of the community who would like to attend. Further details, if required, from me on Tel: 01981 540980

John H.C.Jones—Chairman
Much Birch Community Hall Management Committee

Much Birch Village Market

Will be held on Friday 22nd March at 2.30pm until 4.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall. Please come and support it. Refreshments will be available.
THE CASTLE INN @ LITTLEBIRCH

NEW OPENING TIMES

Monday—fish and chip night 5pm - 11pm
Tuesday—pizza night 5pm - 11pm
Wednesday—steak night 5pm - 11pm
Thursday—pie night 5-11pm
Friday 5-11pm
Saturday all day
Sunday lunch 12-4pm

*Evening menu is also available on the different food nights*

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Little Birch Parish Council

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr Ben Roberts</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>07702 760789</td>
<td><a href="mailto:b3nroberts@gmail.com">b3nroberts@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr Peter Rees</td>
<td></td>
<td>01981 541356</td>
<td><a href="mailto:panddrees@gmail.com">panddrees@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr Mike Morley</td>
<td></td>
<td>01981 541027</td>
<td><a href="mailto:morley04@globalnet.co.uk">morley04@globalnet.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cllr Annette Wissler</td>
<td>Contact through the clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cllr Janet Gwinnett</td>
<td></td>
<td>01981 540651</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetgwinnett@hotmail.com">janetgwinnett@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Middleton</td>
<td>Volunteer Foot Paths Officer</td>
<td>01981 540377</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk">ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie Glover</td>
<td>PC Clerk</td>
<td>01432 617306</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lbpcclerk@gmail.com">lbpcclerk@gmail.com</a></td>
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The February Parish Council meeting was attended by all Councillors, and the footpath officer was also in attendance. Angela had led a very popular parish walk on the first weekend of the month, and she offered to lead another group walk next month, the date and time will be published on the Parish website.

New bike racks at Kingsthorn bus shelter.

With thanks to assistance from Lifecycle UK, Little Birch Parish Council have been able to provide two new bike racks to help to secure your bicycles when you catch the bus from Kingsthorn.

With thanks to Much Dewchurch PC who have allowed the racks to be placed on their land, we all hope that cyclists feel encouraged to combine pedal power with public transport as the weather warms up.

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

Thank you.

Mrs Sophie Glover, Little Birch Parish Clerk, lbpcclerk@gmail.com
Website: www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

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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
PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th February 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Parish Council received an update on the parish footpaths from the new Footpath Officer Steve Owens. This was most welcome, and very informative, and will assist with keeping the paths in a serviceable condition. There was also an update regarding plans for building a house at the Poor’s Acre Field on Hollybush Lane. Finally, a reminder of a forthcoming Consultation Day for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, 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. Do come along to find out more. Refreshments will be served.

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

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: 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 March 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, Kingsthorne, 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  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

Get in touch
101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime
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For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via www.westmercia.police.uk.

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For more information about becoming a Special Constable, please visit,

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