

THE *Birches*

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

First published 1977 July /August 2019

85% vote YES for Joint Neighbourhood Plan—see page 5

LITTLE BIRCH GARDEN FETE

AT THE HOME OF
KATE AND JOHN DILLON
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LITTLE BIRCH.

SATURDAY JULY 13TH 2PM

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In aid of Little Birch Church

Diary Dates

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| June 16
26th | Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm |
| July 19 | |
| 1st | Longtown Historical Society |
| 2nd | LBVH AGM 7pm |
| 3rd | LB Parish Council 7.30pm |
| 4th | Coffee Morning LBVH |
| 4th | MB Parish Council 7.30pm |
| 5th | Evening with Reg Moule MBCH 7.30 |
| 9th | Whist Evening LBVH |
| 13th | Garden Fete Castle Nibole 2pm |
| 14th | Parish Walk 9am |
| 14th | Celebration of Violet Szabo 2pm |
| 17th | Table Tennis LBVH |
| 20th | Opening of MBCH Extension |
| August 19 | |
| 1st | Coffee Morning LBVH |
| 13th | Whist Evening LBVH |
| 14th | Table Tennis LBVH |
| 24-25th | Kilpeck Art Club Exhibition |

Church Services July 2019

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| June 30th | Trinity 2
Benefice Communion Service at Much Birch at 10.30 a.m. |
| July 7th | Trinity 3
Little Birch Communion Service 11.00 a.m. |
| July 14th | Trinity 4
Much Birch Family Communion 9.15 a.m.
Little Birch Morning Worship 11.00 a.m.
Cantref, Tump Lane, Wormelow
Celebration of Violet Szabo 2.00 p.m. |
| July 21st | Trinity 5
Much Birch Communion 9.15 a.m.
Little Birch Traditional Communion 11.00 a.m.
Much Birch Prayers for Healing and Wholeness 6.30 p.m. |
| July 28th | Trinity 6
Much Birch Morning Worship 9.15 a.m. |

Do come along and meet Jules Hudson broadcaster and presenter of BBC hit series Country File

Please send copy for the September Newsletter to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to Liz Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW.
—by **18th August** please.
There is no Newsletter in August



Please note KT&LB Horticultural Show Schedules 7th September 2019 are at the back of this newsletter.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for July and August 2019

Coffee Morning

The next two coffee mornings will be on **Thursday 4th July and Thursday 1st August 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 two **Whist Drives** will be on **Tuesday 9th July and Tuesday 13th August** 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 two Book Exchanges will be on the morning of **Saturday 20th July and Saturday 17th August** 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.

Table Tennis Sessions

The next table tennis sessions will be on **Wednesday 17th July and Wednesday 14th August** at Little Birch Village Hall **between 7pm and 9pm**. All abilities are welcome as the idea is to have a bit of fun and exercise. Equipment is supplied. Sessions will be once a month, but this could be more frequent if there is enough demand. Similarly, if there is sufficient interest, we may also be able to manage a day session. Tea and coffee will be available. £2.00 per session to cover cost of refreshments and heating.

If you are interested and would like more information call Angela Middleton on 01981 540377 or Peter Rees on 01981 541356

Art and Craft Space

The Art and Craft Space continues weekly sessions **every Thursday from 3pm – 5pm** at Little Birch Village Hall. 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 July/August

2nd July at 7pm Annual General Meeting of Little Birch Village Hall Committee

All members of the community are invited to join us at our AGM. This is your opportunity to hear about the work of the committee over the last 12 months and to hear what we have planned for the next 12 months. We look forward to welcoming you

13th July – Little Birch Fete

Future events

Kingsthorpe and Little Birch Annual Horticultural Show:
Friday 6th September at 2pm – Children's Workshop
Saturday 7th September – Horticultural Show

Steam on the Mainline



If anyone would like to see a train hauled by a steam locomotive, passing through Hereford, there is a rail tour due on 29 June. It is scheduled to be hauled by an ex LMS locomotive no. 45596 "Bahamas", a Jubilee Class. Good viewing places are the layby just north of Pontrilas (approx. 12:27), Heywood Tunnel (on the link road between Callow and Belmont Road) (approx. 12:33), the slip road off Green Crize that runs through to Holme Lacy Road (approx. 12:35) and the Station where it will stop (approx. 12:41). The train will then reverse to the diesel sidings behind Lidl where it will remain until 17:06 when it will return to the station, pick up the passengers and depart at 17:18. College Road bridge is a good viewing point for the departure. The times given above are based on those as shown on the website 'realtimetrains'.

If you decide to venture out, you are strongly advised to look at the website www.realtimetrains.co.uk where you can find the final timings and any last minute alterations. Enter 'Hereford' and 12:41 in the time box, then click on "search". On the next page click on "switch to detailed". On the next page, in the "ID" column click on 1Z54 and the scheduled timings at all locations the train passes between Dorridge and Hereford will be displayed. To the right of that will be displayed the actual timings. You will only be interested in the locations on the approach to Hereford to see whether it is early, on time or running late. Generally they run to time because they have to fit between the paths of service trains.

There are other steam hauled trains scheduled on Saturday 13th July, on Saturday 20th July, on Wednesday 7th August, provisional on Saturday 14th September. Search for timings as described above – each train will have 1Z as first two ID characters but the third and fourth will be different for each train.

Big Tea:



This summer, make time for tea and cake with those close to you.

By hosting a Big Tea, whatever the size, you'll be helping your Hospice continue supporting families in Herefordshire and the surrounding areas.

Just pick a venue (it could be your front room, a village hall or your staff room), choose a date and time and then invite your friends, family, neighbours or work colleagues to enjoy one of our favourite pastimes; drinking tea and eating cake.

To get involved, contact Gaynor on 01432 852 630 or email gwarren@smhospicehereford.org and she will help you plan your event.

Open Gardens:

Summer is a time many of us enjoy spending in the garden.

If you're looking for inspiration, or you just fancy an afternoon spent in a beautiful Herefordshire garden, then we've just the thing for you.

*The St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens season continues on **Wednesday, 3rd July** at Homme House in Much Marcle where visitors have the chance, for a small additional price, to enjoy a guided parkland walk.*

*Four days later, on **Sunday 7th July**, Seabournes in Fawley, near Ross-on-Wye is the venue. The 10-acre garden features wonderful views of the River Wye and surrounding landscape and offers ample opportunity for a picnic.*

*Brinsop Court, near Tillington, is next in the Open Gardens programme on **Thursday, 18th July** when the Grade 1-listed 12th Century moated manor house will be open to explore, along with the 800-acre estate.*

*Rhodds Farm in Lyonshall, which opens on **Sunday, 21st July**, offers wonderful views of the Malvern Hills and the Black Mountains, while Shobdon Court on **Sunday, 18th August** is rarely open to the public and features an arboretum with a mature tree canopy and smaller acers below.*

For more Open Gardens information, including directions and how to book tickets, visit st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

Paul Broome

Communications Officer, St Michael's Hospice

Tel 01432 852 643

Fax 01432 851 022

st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

[facebook.com/stmichaelshospicehereford](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelshospicehereford)

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Journal entries for July 2019

ROSS LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT GROUP: All interested are invited to our July Talk which will be held on a different Tuesday; it will be on Tuesday evening **23rd July** 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at Ross Library. Our local Poet, BEN RAY will read some of the poems from his new Collection and talk about the way he works. Refreshments available for donation. Entry £4.00 RLDG Members, £5.00 non-Members, Students Free. Website www.rldg.org.uk

ROSS ARTS APPRECIATION SOCIETY: On Friday 5th July at the Larruperz Centre Ross, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m., we will be hosting a renowned, local Violinist, ALICE EARLL, who will play her unique violin and tell us about J. S. Bach's dance music of the baroque era. All interested are welcome. Entry £2.50 for members, £5.00 for non-Members, Students free. For details ring 01989 720539 or mob. 07899 728346 or email: ladyjan8@gmail.com

ROSS CIVIC SOCIETY The Committee invite you to join them on a Visit to Hampton Court Castle, Hope under Dinmore, HR6 0PN on Wednesday morning 10th July. To book or enquire further contact the Organiser Norman Bricknell on 01989 768320 or by email to norman@morrisbricknell.com

Longtown Historical Society, AGM, Monday 1 July, 7.30pm, Longtown Village Hall, HR2 0LD The AGM will be followed by a talk by Professor Keith Ray, whose subject will be "Offa's Dyke and the Western Frontier of Mercia along the Wye". Contact jeremy.milln@gmail.com for more information. Guests are very welcome at our meetings, (£3).

Join us at the Community Café @ Much Birch Community Hall

Dates for 2019

Saturdays, 10:00 - 12:30

8 June		13 July
7 September		12 October
9 November		14 December

For more information or if you are in need of transport contact Lydia on 01981 540323 or socialfabric@hotmail.com



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Little Birch & Aconbury

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Congratulations to Aconbury and Little Birch parishes following the 30 May Referendum on the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Plan. The decision was an overwhelming majority with almost 85% in favour of using the plan to help decide planning applications.

Samantha Banks, Neighbourhood Planning Manager at Herefordshire Council says that a report is being prepared for the Cabinet Member (Infrastructure) in order to adopt the plan and it is anticipated the plan will be adopted by the end of June.

This result means that the neighbourhood plan will now form part of the statutory planning framework guiding new building and other development across the two parishes.

A big thanks must go to all those who have worked so hard on the plan for the past three years to make this such a resounding success. - especially David Nicholson, the planning consultant, all the members of the Steering Group and Sophie Glover – Clerk to the Steering Group.

Aconbury is the only Parish Meeting to have joined with a Parish Council to produce an NDP. There have been 61 successful referendums so far.

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

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TEA ON THE TRAIL

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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



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Call Sarah on 07849 151085 (any messages left will be responded to the same day) or email us on sarahbirches@gmail.com



HISTORY GROUP

This month the Writing Group tell you about the History Group.

To celebrate the Millennium, it was decided to take the offer of a grant for the purpose and compile a photographic record of all the buildings in the west end of Little Birch and Kings Thorn. This, together with information which each householder provided about their property's history, stimulated interest in studying local history once again and the Little Birch and Kings Thorn History Group was born.

The above paragraph is taken from the book "Little Birch on Aconbury Hill" produced and published by the History Group in 2006 – no doubt many of you will already have a copy, but if you would like to purchase one, contact Alison Clarke on 01981 540 791. The photographic recording is on DVD and is available from Mike Morley on 01981 540 510. A copy of this is also in the Records Office.

The Group meets once a month at the home of Alison Clarke – founder member and organizer of events. It is too small a group to warrant using the Village Hall, but when a speaker is invited to talk on a range of historic and rural subjects, these are held at the Village Hall and open to everyone for a small fee. The speaker is paid from the profits made from the book and usually includes refreshments.

The Group also have visits to places of historical interest in and around Hereford.

They are currently planning a second book.

Anyone who would like to join them, please contact Alison who will be delighted to welcome you.



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Or Visit my Facebook Page.

Visit to Coningsby Hospital

Members of the History Group have recently visited Coningsby Hospital on Widemarsh Street. Come on, admit it, how many of you have lived here for many years and never visited it?! I hadn't either but I am very glad I finally made it. It is a fascinating piece of Hereford's history. It began life in the 1200s as a chapel of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem founded at the time of the Crusades. In the 1600s Sir Thomas Coningsby converted it and extended it, forming a quadrangle including alms houses, a smaller chapel, dining hall and infirmary. It now contains a very interesting museum with lots of information to absorb. It is open every Wednesday and Saturday from 11.00 and costs nothing though a donation is requested.

It is well worth a visit, also the Blackfriars Monastery behind the alms houses and accessed straight off the street. This is open every day to just wander around. It is very ruinous but the rare 14th century preaching cross in the grounds is in good order. Thomas Coningsby bought it after the dissolution and created a house for himself in it.

Kilpeck Art Club August Exhibition

The Club will be holding a weekend exhibition on 24th-25th August 2019, from 10am-5pm. A varied collection of art works will be on display, including cards which are suitable for anniversaries and Christmas. Refreshments will be available. Please come along and support us.

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



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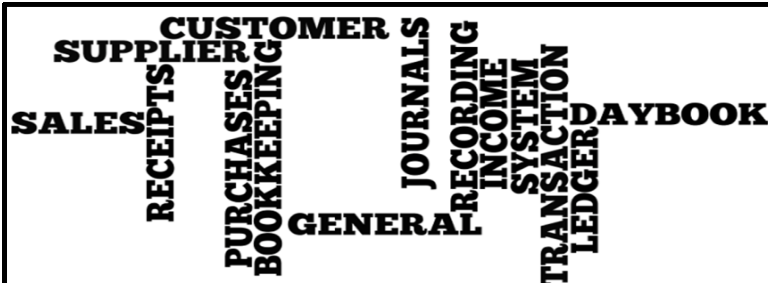
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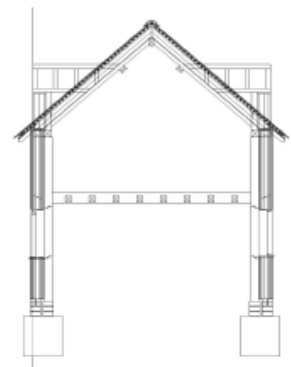
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Memorabilia

The opening of the new extension of Much Birch Community Hall will take place on Saturday 20th July 2019, when we will also be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the original opening of the main building. The Management Committee would like to put together a display of photographs and articles relating to special events held in the Hall over the years, especially of the opening day. If you could lend us any such items we promise to take care of them and would of course return them to you soon after 20th July

If you do have items to lend us please contact me on tel: 01981 540980. We would be so grateful if you could help with this display.

John H.C. Jones, Chairman of Management Committee

Further details regarding the celebration will be published later.

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)



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KINGS THORN & LITTLE BIRCH GARDENING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Looking at my last letter, I foolishly said summer had arrived! How wrong can you be - I'm looking out at a VERY green garden and lashing rain - I know we needed it but can it please stop now! At least the pond is full to overflowing and the water butts are topped up ready for the sunshine when it comes, and it will eventually, ready for all our flowers and vegetables for the summer show!! Looking forward is the only way to go ☺☺

We had a very good May meeting at the club with C lyde of Wobage Farm demonstrating willow weaving. He made a wonderful garden obelisk and explained all the types of willow, their uses and preparation procedures for getting the willow ready for weaving. He also brought along examples of his work from small serving platters, baskets and a wonderful sculptural vessel - we were all really impressed with his enthusiasm and professionalism in his work, so much so that we have booked him for a work shop in December. Those that attend will make a Christmas themed obelisk. The cost for the session and materials will be £40 per person and numbers are limited so it will be a first come first served basis and we will start to take names and payment in September. We also welcomed quite a few new faces which was great, hopefully we will see them again and maybe a few more!

July is our garden visit - 24th July - to Veddw Garden at Devauden. Names and deposits will have been taken at the June meeting but if you would like to attend, please give me a call on 01981 541198.

Our next newsletter will be in September as July and August are combined so I wish you a very warm and productive summer season from all the committee. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Village Summer Show on Saturday 7th September in the Village Hall. The schedule is attached to The Birches Newsletter and I hope that there is something in the schedule that you fancy entering.

Come on all you bakers, makers and florists - I know you are out there! We would love to see you and your entries! Don't forget the art section and get your cameras clicking for the photographic section - couldn't be easier and Veddw is an amazing garden designed for a garden photographer! Also, mums, dads and grandparents, there is a children's workshop on Friday 6th September 4.00 pm where the children can make their entries for the show.

All materials are provided and the children will be supervised but you are very welcome to keep them company. This is an open show for everyone and the tea and cake refreshments are delicious! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Happy gardening!
Regards, Jenny

Andrew Nixon Wildflower Walk and much more!

Sunday greeted us sunny and warm, when about 15 of us - including Toni Fagan, our newly-elected Green Councillor - met up with Andrew Nixon, from the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust.

In a small meadow Andrew pointed out different grasses and explained how bracken can be controlled by bashing or rolling it three times a year. He also explained how each county deals with green road verges, which should act as wildlife corridors, but are often cut just as wildflowers are flowering, so the seeds do not set. Ideally for wildlife, he said hedges should be cut every two years into a pyramid shape, wide at the base and narrow at the top with trees interspersed along the hedge-line.

By the time we reached Model Cottages it poured with rain, so we sheltered under a generous fir tree. Here we discussed native tree diseases, such as 'ash die back', phosphate pollution in rivers, otters, planning applications on wildflower meadows and climate change. The extent of Andrew's knowledge was never-ending!

To avoid a very wet walk in Athelstan's Wood we visited Mel's meadow in Eden Lane, which contained beautiful grasses, vetch, cat's ear, hog weed and many different bees. It also gave us lovely views over to the Black Mountains.

Our morning walk was rounded off in the village hall, over a welcome cup of tea. Here we heard more about Andrew's work, such as a Wildlife Trust project at Bodenham Lake, where shallow margins are being created for aquatic plants. He also told us about Herefordshire's many Ice Age glaciated ponds, from which soil samples yield vital information about the earth's formation. Sadly, there are none in Little Birch, as glacial ice only descended as far as Hereford Race Course!

What a fascinating walk! Thank you so much Andrew and we hope to see you in Little Birch again soon.

Parish Walk - Sunday 14 July

Join in on a walk from Little Birch down to the River Wye for coffee/tea at the Lucksall Campsite Riverside Bar/ Eatery - 5.5 miles approx. A moderate walk along green lanes, through fields, lanes, parkland and along the riverside. There are a number of stiles and depending on the weather -maybe wet grass!

On Sunday 14 July at 9am meeting at Little Birch Village Hall. In total may take 3 - 4 hours.

The plan is to arrange for cars to bring everyone back to LBVH. So please contact me in advance if you are planning to join the walk, so we can arrange drivers and also give numbers to Lucksall.

All Welcome!

Angela Middleton
Volunteer Footpath Officer
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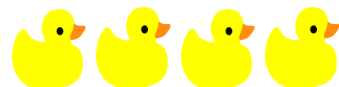
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A CALL FOR HELP.....

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.

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

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

29 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November.

A reminder that the dates for the 2019 Parish Council Meetings are as follows: July 4, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5.

All are welcome to attend.

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 Veronica Thomas 4, Queens Close, Wormelow, Hereford, HR2 8FD Tel. 01981 540646 (no e mail)

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>



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Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

Cllr Peter Rees	Chair	01981 541356	pandrees@gmail.com
Cllr Janet Gwinnett	Vice Chair	01981 540651	janetgwinnett@hotmail.com
Cllr Kate Dillon		01981 540364	kate@castlenibole.com
Cllr Michael Davies		01981 540129	mikeandmaradavies@gmail.com
Cllr Kate Robbins			kate_robbins@hotmail.co.uk
Angela Middleton	Volunteer Footpath Officer	01981 540377	ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk
Sophie Glover	Clerk	01432 617306	lbpcclerk@gmail.com

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.

Little Birch Parish Facebook Group


 JOIN OUR GROUP ON
Facebook

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

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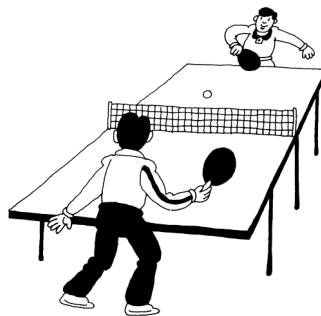



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Admission is just £2.00 which goes towards the cost of refreshments. You don't need any equipment as everything is provided. If you need any further information, please contact Peter Rees on 01981 541356 or Angela Middleton on 01981 540377.

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