

THE **Birches**

Community Matters

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

*First published 1977 **March 2020***

**Community
Spring
Sing**

**Saturday 21 March
2-5 pm**

Much Birch Community Hall

Welcome in the Spring with a fun singing afternoon led by Kay Garlick. Open to all ages, no need to read music, just come along and enjoy a fun sing and a cuppa!

Free event - just turn up!

Social Fabric

Church Services March 2020



- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1st | 1st Sunday of Lent |
| 11.00 a.m. | Holy Communion at Little Birch |
| 8th | 2nd Sunday of Lent |
| 9.15 a.m. | Family Communion at Much Birch. |
| 11.00 a.m. | Morning Worship at Little Birch |
| 15th | 3rd Sunday of Lent |
| 9.15 a.m. | Holy Communion at Much Birch. |
| 11.00 a.m. | Traditional Language Communion at Little Birch |
| 22nd | 4th Sunday of Lent |
| 9.15 a.m. | Morning Worship at Much Birch. |
| 29th | 5th Sunday of Lent |
| 10.30 a.m. | Archenfield Group Service at St. Weonards |

Diary Dates

February 2020

- 25th Pancake Evening LBVH 5.30pm
- 26th Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm

March 2020

- 1st Parish Walk from LBVH 9am
- 4th LB Parish Council LBVH 7pm
- 5th Coffee Morning LBVH 10.30am
- 5th MB Parish Council MBCH 7.30pm
- 7th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH 7.30pm
- 10th Whist LBVH 7.30pm
- 14th Community Café MBCH 10am
- 18th Table Tennis LBVH 7pm
- 21st Spring Sing MBCH 2pm
- 21st Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am
- 25th Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm
- 27th Village Market MBCH 2.30pm

April 2020

- 4th Community Choir MBCH 7pm
- 12th Dawn Chorus Walk from LBVH 5.45am

St. Mary's Church, Little Birch.

We will be having a church clean, and tidy up outside, on Saturday April 4th. starting at 10am. This will mean that everything will be looking nice for the Easter celebrations. If anybody can come along and help it will be much appreciated, the more the merrier, there are lots of jobs to do that will make a difference to our beautiful church.

Happy Easter to everybody from
St. Mary's.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for March 2020

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 5th 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 10th 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 21st 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.

Table Tennis Sessions

The next table tennis session will be on **Wednesday 18th March** 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 are once a month. 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 Peter Rees on 01981 541356

Art and Crafts Club

Art and Crafts Club sessions continue weekly on **Thursdays during March from 2pm – 4pm** at Little Birch Village Hall.

Sessions include drawing, painting, creative writing, knitting, crochet, quilting or any other crafts which people are interested in. We have beginners as well as seasoned and talented members. Bring your own materials and enjoy time with like-minded people. Some craft work. We will occasionally have contributions from external speakers/presenters, as this has been very popular. Why not come along and see what it's like – new people are always made very welcome. For further

information contact: Val On 01981-540424 or mobile 07854-244656, or Maz on 01981-541048.

Kingsthorpe and Little Birch Gardening Club

The next monthly meeting will take place on **25th March at 7.30pm**.

Little Birch Parish Council

Next meeting is **Wednesday 4th March at 7pm**



CROSSROADS CARE Crossroads Care are a specialist charity working to help and support unpaid carers
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info@crossroadshereford.org.uk
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MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL SMART WATER - decision

At the February Parish Council Meeting, held on the 6th February, the Much Birch Parish Council again discussed the possibility of providing “Smart Water” property marking kits to households in the parish. Having given consideration to the overall cost of the scheme, and the fact that there had been minimal interest registered, the Parish Council decided not to progress the idea at the current time. The Parish Council wishes to say thank you to all those who did contact the Clerk to register their interest in the scheme.



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Or £40 for 6 weeks

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Or email yogahouseuk@gmail.com

Every Body Welcome



This charity provides therapeutic riding lessons for disabled individuals.

Herefordshire Riding for the Disabled was established in 1991, on the grounds of Holme Lacy College and is the only purpose built centre in the West Mercia region. Annually, with the help of a superb team of volunteers, we provide riding lessons to over 250 disabled individuals from Herefordshire and the surrounding borders.

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Tel: 01432 870 831

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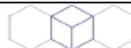
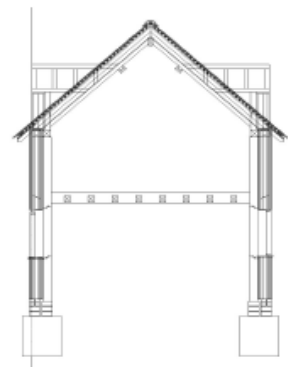
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A message from the Little Birch and King's Thorn History Group

For a number of years we have organised talks for the community on historical topics paying the speaker's fee from the funds we have raised from sales of our book. These talks have been well received and mostly well attended.

However, the last 2 talks this autumn on the making of the Hereford to Worcester railway and on the stagecoach era were very poorly attended. Whereas we are very grateful to those who came we were most embarrassed that the speaker had so few people to talk to.

We always aim to advertise well and choose topics which we think will interest people – maybe we are not getting it right. So....

Please let us know what topics you would like to hear about, make suggestions about advertising or just tell us if you think these talks are a waste of time. Please send your comments to lbhistorygroup@gmail.com

KINGS THORN & LITTLE BIRCH GARDENING CLUB

Wednesday 26 February

Iceland – its Landscape, People and Wildlife

A reminder that Janet Gwinnett, our Chair of the Gardening Club, will entertain us all with a fascinating talk about her circumnavigation of Iceland, last summer.

Iceland is an island of incredible natural landscapes and only just on the edge of the Arctic Circle. Janet has a number of her photos - and will be showing what a unique destination Iceland is.

Be sure to come in from the cold and enjoy some warm refreshments too!

Wednesday 25 March

Launch of New 2020/21 Programme

Now is the time to join **Kings Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club** or to re-new membership. At the Annual General Meeting details will be given about our Events and Speakers for the following year.

Annual Membership is £12. New members will be warmly welcome!

Our meetings start at 7.30pm, in Little Birch Village Hall. Refreshments are served and non-members are always welcome to any of our talks and events! We can certainly look forward to some interesting talks on various topics.

For membership details call our Membership Secretary on 01981 540 327.

FOOTPRINTS

Our last walk took us around Strickstenning Hall and back through the woods - it was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic people walking and talking together exploring our local footpaths



Advance notice for the **Dawn**

Chorus Walk on Easter Sunday 12

April meeting at Merrivale Farm, Little Birch HR2 8BA at 5.45am for 6am. Andrew Nixon from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust will be there to help identify the birds - about 3 miles down through Athelstan's Wood. No dogs please. Bacon butties/ toast & marmalade and tea/coffee afterwards at the farm. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Support and Alzheimers UK.

If you get lost on the morning call me on 07717 471862

Parish Walk

Sunday 1 March at 9 am

Aconbury village walk approximately 4 miles

Meet at Little Birch Village Hall and we will walk down through the woods to Aconbury Village, around fields then return up to the village hall for refreshments. Stiles, muddy paths and slippery slopes.

Angela Middleton

Volunteer Footpath Officer

01981 540377

Much Birch PCC

requires a Minute Secretary for PCC meetings. There are usually 4 meetings a year plus the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It does not necessarily have to be a churchgoer. Please contact Sylvia Jones on 01981 540980 if you are interested in supporting us in this way.

Village Market

The Easter Village Market will be held on Friday 27th March 2020 from 2.30pm until 4.30pm in Much Birch Community Hall. We will have the usual stalls of cakes, meats, cards, jams, juices, honey etc. This time there will also be a stall selling pet foods. We would welcome any other new stall and if you are interested would you please contact John or Sylvia Jones on Tel: 01981 540980. As usual refreshments will also be available. Please support this local event by coming along if you can.

ART & CRAFTS GROUP



Our weekly sessions for 2020 resume on 9th January 2-4pm within Little Birch Village Hall.

These sessions include drawing/painting, creative writing, knitting, crochet and any other craft which members are interested in.

We have beginners as well as talented members and share our ideas and skills within the group

We will occasionally have contributions from external speakers/artists

Come along and see what it is like. New people are made very welcome.

There is a small charge of £3 which covers and cost of the hall and light refreshment.

For further information please contact Val on 01981 540424 mob 07854 244656 Maz 01981 541048

Dates for Much Birch Community Hall Village Markets for 2020

Easter Market - 27th March 2020

Summer Market - 26th June 2020

Autumn Market - 25th September 2020

Christmas Market - 11th December 2020

All 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

Results of the 100 club draw which took place on 16th February in the Community Hall are as follows:

1 st prize – No.61	2 nd prize - No 27
Mrs. M. Hines	Dr. P. Garlick
Much Birch	Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 15th March 2020 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall. John Jones, Promoter

Please send copy for the April Newsletter to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to Liz Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW. —by 18th March please.



FLICKS IN THE STICKS at Much Birch Community Hall

Saturday 7 March, 7.30 pm
SORRY WE MISSED YOU 15

Thursday 12 March, 7.30 pm
HITSVILLE - THE MAKING OF MOTOWN 12

Borderlines Tickets: £5 (£4 under 16s)

Coming up in April...
Thursday 23 April - MRS LOWRY AND SON PG

TICKETS 4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

For further info or to book tickets please email muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com or call 01981 540097

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

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LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS NOW BEING INTRODUCED AT MUCH BIRCH

I am a fully qualified linedance teacher with over 20 years teaching experience and 30 years dancing. Currently I run an established linedance class in Much Birch Community Hall - Wednesday evenings-7.30 - 9.30.

As from 6th November I am changing the structure of the class and would welcome any beginners to join us. The first hour will be dedicated to teaching Beginners linedance steps followed by easy dances'

This is a great chance to learn one of the most popular forms of dance, to socialise and to have fun.

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Big Spring Walk & Black Mountains Trek

Blow out the cobwebs this Spring by joining St Michael's Hospice as we explore our green and pleasant land.

Whether it's a gentle Sunday morning stroll, or an all-day mountain hike, we've got a walking adventure for you. The Black Mountains Trek on Saturday 7th March is a challenging 30-kilometre walk taking in the remote, dramatic scenery of this renowned mountain range. Marshalled by the Longtown Mountain Rescue Team, you'll reach the prominent central ridge of the Black Mountains offering superb views across the Brecon Beacons National Park. End the day at Longtown Village Hall where a two-course meal awaits.

For something more gentle, try the Hospice's Big Spring Walk on Sunday 22nd March.

Choose from a gentle Sunday morning stroll, or a longer meander. Set off from Hereford Rowing Club on either a 2.5k, 5.5k, 12.5k or 17.5k walk. Each route will head west towards Breinton, returning to the Rowing Club along riverside paths. It's free to enter in advance but we ask those taking part to get sponsored for St Michael's.

To sign up for Black Mountains Trek or Big Spring Walk, visit www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/events

Virtual Tour of Britain

A year-long exercise challenge taking a group of St Michael's Hospice patients on a virtual tour of Britain has been successfully completed.

The Hospice's Physiotherapy team devised the virtual Tour of Britain which allowed patients to take it in turns using exercise bikes or treadmills to help complete a 7,723-mile journey around the British Isles – all without leaving St Michael's.

Starting and ending in the Cornish town of St Ives – a favourite place for one of those taking part – the journey lasted throughout 2019, ending just before New Year's Eve.

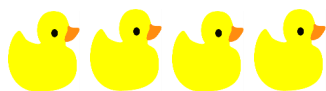
Rose Livesey said: 'I've really enjoyed taking part. You really feel as though you're contributing to a worthwhile cause.'

The exercise helped improve the cardiovascular system and strengthened legs and arms.

For more information contact Paul Broome, Communications Officer at St Michael's Hospice, on 01432 852 643 or email pbroome@smhospicehereford.org



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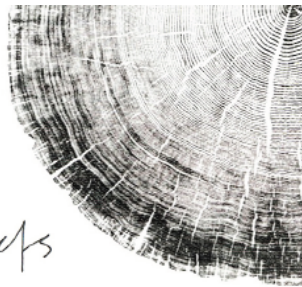
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Thursday 19th March 2020 @ 7.30PM

Hereford Yazor Brooks Restoration Project

Speaker: Nic Howes

The Yazor, Widemarsh and Eign Brooks are successive sections of the Wye's largest tributary through Hereford City. Nic has been a project volunteer for more than two years. He will give an illustrated talk explaining the context and history of the Project and its work and outcomes

Non-members welcome: £3 donation
Annual Membership £15 (10 meetings pa + quarterly magazine)
(on Sunday 17th May, Nic will lead a walk exploring these brooks through Hereford City)

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ROSS CIVIC SOCIETY All interested are invited to come to the Larruperz Community Centre, Ross, on Wednesday evening 11th March, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m., to hear DR. ANNE BENSON's illustrated Talk on THE REMARKABLE HISTORY OF RAGLAN CASTLE.

Entry for Visitors £5.00 each or join the Civic Society for only £15.00 p.p. for the year. Wine etc. will be available for a small charge. For further details see the website www.rosscivic.org.uk

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Mark Giles

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KILPECK ART CLUB

Our spring Season will begin on February 24th 2020. We meet on Mondays from 2pm–4pm in Kilpeck Village Hall, HR2 9DW except for bank holidays. Please contact Jenny Davies (Secretary) at jen64davies@gmail.com for details.

Join us at the

Community Café @ Much Birch Community Hall

2nd Saturday of the month

10:00 - 12:30

14 March

11 April

9 May

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



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TEA ON THE TRAIL

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The clocks have changed and the nights are drawing in, but there are still plenty of reasons to come back to the Pilgrim and enjoy the fabulous countryside and Christmas Shopping that Herefordshire can offer. Friendly and welcoming staff, a new Evening Menu and a "Gin Bar" featuring Fever Tree mixers may also help to speed up your return.

To make it even more beneficial to come back, we have created a new "Discount Code" solely for returning guests. Using the code RETURN during the reservation process [on the right of the date selection boxes] and you will earn a £25 per night discount from the price of all All Inclusive reservations between November 1st and January 31st 2020.

In effect you will be paying the same price as "Dinner Bed & Breakfast", whilst enjoying the extra Cream Tea, Pre-Dinner Drink and Complimentary Bottle of House Wine of the All Inclusive package. Truly great value for money.

Rooms include our Country Collection Twins & Kings as well as our standard Valley View King rooms. These stays are for 2 people sharing a room only and can only be booked via our website.

[WEBSITE](#)

All the other offers listed below can be made by email or phone call, so please check your diaries and make that booking!

Best Wishes
Steve & The Team

History of the Hotel Name

The Hotel takes its name from its position on the Pilgrimage route for St Ethelbert, who was King of East Anglia from circa 779 to his untimely death in 794.

Ethelbert was lured to the Palace of King Offa, just north of Hereford, where he was promised the hand of the King's daughter, Eadburgh, in marriage.

When he arrived at Sutton Walls Palace he was treacherously captured & beheaded with his body thrown into a ditch.

He was eventually reunited with his head by a local monk and laid to rest in a tomb on the site of the current Hereford Cathedral. Miracles were later reported to be connected to his shrine and he was later Canonised.

"Saint Ethelbert" is now one of two patron saints of the Cathedral, which has created the Order of St Ethelbert in his honour

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

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Or Visit my Facebook Page.

10th February 2020

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th February 2020 at the Much Birch Community Hall.

SMART WATER

The Parish Council again discussed the possibility of providing “Smart Water” property marking kits to households in the parish. Having given consideration to the overall cost of the scheme, and the fact that there had been minimal interest registered, the Parish Council decided not to progress the idea at the current time.

CROSSING ON THE A49

The Parish Council also discussed a forthcoming meeting with Highways England to look at the possibility of further signage for the crossing at the Top of Tump Lane. The signage would be to warn drivers further back from the crossing to try to help avoid the possibility of vehicles going over a red light. The final decision on the signage would be taken by Highways England after consulting with interested parties and including the Police Road Safety Team Traffic Management Advisor.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 5th March 2020 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Dates for further 2020 Parish Council Meetings are: 9 April, 8 May (Friday), 11 June, 9 July, 3 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec 2020. No meeting in August.

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>

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that the incorrect update from Much Birch Parish Council was published last month, apologies for any confusion.

STEAM TRAINS

In response to the article relating to steam trains printed in a previous Newsletter I would like to write my view of the dirty, noisy, smelly and ugly objects!!!

The writer is obviously a big fan of steam trains whereas I find nothing pleasing in them at all and was very glad to see the back of them.

As a child growing up in North London, I lived opposite a railway siding and was kept awake most nights with the engines shuffling and shunting back and forth. I swore then that when I grew up I would marry a farmer and live in the country as far away from the sound of trains as possible. I managed the country bit but unfortunately not the farmer – not too many of them in London!

My family, on my Father’s side, were connected to the railways since they first arrived in this country. I have a photograph of my Grandfather decked in his guard’s uniform. His run was from King’s Cross to Edinburgh and back. It was rumored he had a second family in Scotland. I also have a small copper bottle he used to boil water for his tea on the engine.

My experiences of steam trains were not pleasant. I had to travel on one to my school playing field once a week. In the winter the heater under the seat in the carriage was either not working or it scalded the back of your legs if it was. In Summer you did not dare open the window or the carriage would fill with smoke, especially if you went through a tunnel.

My parents travelled on the train from London to visit us when we first moved to Hereford (early 1960s). They loved the journey – in the restaurant car! I found it very worrying, my Mother was always in a very inebriated state when she nearly fell off the train. I had heard of many people getting their leg trapped in the gap between the train and the platform. It never happened to her thank goodness. My Father – a very honest man – found a British Railway brass ashtray in his pocket after one such journey. I have it still.

A last nasty reminder of those monsters. A boyfriend stuck his head out of a window of a moving train and was decapitated by a signal when passing it. He was 19. I was not with him at the time but the accident was deeply shocking to myself and his friends. It was certainly a reminder never to put your head out of a window in a moving train.

Little Birch Parish Council

Your Little Birch Parish Councillors are:

Cllr Peter Rees Chair
Cllr Janet Gwinnett Vice Chair
Cllr Kate Dillon
Cllr Michael Davies
Cllr Kate Robbins
Angela Middleton Volunteer Footpath Officer
Sophie Glover Clerk 01432 617306

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

lbpcclerk@gmail.com



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For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via www.westmercia.police.uk.



South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Make the difference

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

Warwickshire Police: www.warwickshire.police.uk/specialconstables

West Mercia Police: www.westmercia.police.uk/specialconstables