



THE **Birches**

Community Matters

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

First published 1977 **October 2020**

A note from the Editorial Team

At last! We now have a printed version of our Newsletter which we can put through your doors.

And we are in colour now thanks to some adjustments in the printing procedures.

We all hope you will appreciate the incredible contributions which our Community have made to this month's issue.

But..... Printing costs money as we all know (unless it is bank notes!). So if anyone would be happy to look up this Newsletter in the online environments—Much Birch and Little Birch Parish Council websites—where it will still be uploaded, please let Mike Leigh know so you can be removed from the distribution list.
michael@seychelles91.plus.com

And/or, if you wish to receive future editions by Email (PDF version) let the editor know—
editorial@birchesnews.org.uk

Best wishes
Editor

PILETES with Alison Allan

Little Dewchurch Hall

Monday 10 - 11am and 11.20 - 12.20
Wednesday 6.45 – 7.45pm, 8 - 9pm

ZOOM

Tuesday 7 - 8pm

Private lessons by arrangement

Booking essential

Tel: 01432 840491 Mob: 07947 011707

Email: Alisonpilates2016@gmail.com

Facebook



at Much Birch
Community Hall

Flicks in the Sticks Update

Unfortunately Flicks will not be returning just yet - we plan to return when we feel we can create a safe, comfortable and enjoyable experience for all our audience and volunteers. We will be reviewing the situation in October and will keep you updated.

Much Birch Flicks Team

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About Us

Carrot&Wine Stores is brand new to the Hereford area.

Our family run company aims to offer all the convenience and family friendly service of a local store with the added benefit of locally sourced produce.

We stock local groceries, meats and cheese to local award winning cider, wine and all the daily essentials such as bread, milk, eggs and newspapers.

Open 7 days from 7am to 9pm
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CARROT & WINE STORES



WORMELOW

February 2020 and life was pretty much 100 miles per hour. As a music teacher and professional musician I could look forward to a full diary of lessons and twice weekly shows for the rest of the year.

March 2020 'Lockdown' happened and my diary was empty.

My wife Geraldine, my sons Leo and David & I were planning to move to Little Birch to be close to the in-laws (Mike and Jackie Morley). Geraldine was born in Kingsthorpe and was keen to return to her roots, but even the prospect of booking a removal company was bleak.

Overnight I lost all my students coupled with the loss of performing any live music. drastic measures had to be taken.

Have you tried 'Skype'... I've heard that 'Zoom' is really good... Why not have a look at 'Teams'..

The learning curve was steep and the time frame was short. However in no time at all a whole new way of teaching opened up to me and my students.

Next I heard that the housing market was opening up again which meant removal companies would be back in business.

The move to Little Birch was back on.

We made a few trips to our new home prior to arrival in July, then on the 24th July we moved in.

The first thing I noticed was the peace and quiet, and waking to 'bird song' instead of the roar of traffic.. I also now tend the gardens which is something this 'city boy' is not familiar with but is rising to the challenge.

September 2020 and life has slowed down to an acceptable 60 miles per hour. I am still a music teacher and I have started to welcome students of all ages from the local area. I have been able to set up my dream music studio which offers up to date facilities and is big enough to satisfy current distancing guidelines.

Geraldine and I hope we can make a positive contribution to both the village and the community.

I know my wife is home and so am I.

Rick Hampton



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MUCH BIRCH SURGERY

Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinics 2020

2020 has been a very different year than we are used to. We have all had to make changes to the way we live. As we come into Autumn it is time to think about the risks of Seasonal Flu as well as COVID-19.

Flu vaccination clinics will be held in early October for eligible patients. All eligible patients will receive an invite by post during September.

- Please attend at the time given
- Please wear appropriate clothing so that the vaccine can be given in your upper arm easily.
- It is essential that you wear a mask/face covering to attend your appointment.
- Please do not attend if you or a close contact has symptoms or have had recent contact with a suspected/confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Please come alone unless you need the support of a carer.
- You may be expected to stand in a queue for a short time, which could be outside.
- Please don't bring unnecessary bags etc.
- Understand the toilet facilities will not be available.
- Understand the clinics are for flu only, and please don't ask for other advice during your appointment.
- Entrance and exits may be different from usual, and will be marked clearly.
- Primary School children will be vaccinated in school as normal and will be contacted by the school or school nurse.

From September, the following people are eligible for a Flu vaccine from their GP:

- Children aged 2 and 3 (if not receiving vaccine in school)
- People aged 65 and over
- People from 6 months of age with long term health conditions
- Adults with a BMI of 40 or above
- Unpaid Carers
- Pregnant Women
- People with a Learning Disability

50-64 year olds

NHS England aim to extend the vaccination programme to all patients aged 50-64 who in previous years would not have been eligible for a flu vaccination. These vaccinations will take place towards the end of the year and will be dependent on vaccine supply. Further detail will follow. It is vital we protect those most at risk first, if you are aged 50-64 and are in one of the at risk groups, please do not delay getting your flu vaccination.

Facebook and website

We have a **Much Birch Surgery Patient Information** page on Facebook. Join this or visit our website to keep up to date with current information.

www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk

Pilgrim Hotel & Valley Restaurant

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Group Cancellations

Great September Offers



Our new "Garden Room" Guarantees Outside Dining Whatever the Weather

"Bounceback" Discount Extended

We are delighted to be back open and hosting guests again, albeit in a socially distanced manner and with enhanced hygiene precautions. Early feedback from those guests on how we are implementing the current guidelines has been extremely positive and we are striving to make all of our guests feel as safe as possible during their stay.

Unfortunately for the business, but potentially very fortunate for you, two large groups have cancelled their long standing bookings during the first 10 days of September. We have therefore quickly reduced rates for that period and also extended the very popular "Bounceback" discount along with the "long stay" discount deal we introduced in July, for the entire month of September.

For example, a 4 night stay in a Valley View King size room [rooms 2, 4 & 5] on a Dinner Bed & Breakfast basis arriving 6th September, works out at only £48.15pp per night sharing. A truly special deal and one not to be missed.

It would be great to welcome you back to the Pilgrim very soon, especially as we are bringing all of the staff back from "furlough" on September 1st and it would be good for them to have some guests to look after!

Best wishes & hopefully see you very soon.

Steve, Stef & Deepak

Two gentlemen, both slightly hard of hearing, are travelling on a London train.

"is this Wembley?"

"No. it's Thursday"

"So am I—let's get a drink"



LITTLE BIRCH CHURCH

The church is now open!

For details consult the facebook page

www.facebook.com/stmarylb

EVERYONE WELCOME

Newspaper misprints and oddities to brighten your day.....!



And remember you can make a wonderfully nourishing broth from the remains if you have an invalid in the house.

In the handicrafts exhibition at Wordsley Community Centre, the contribution of the Misses Smith was "smocking and rugs" and not "smoking drugs" as stated in last week's report.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of white figured brocade with a trailing veil held in place by a coronet of pearls. She carried a bouquet of rose buds and goods vehicles, leaving free access to all private vehicles not built for more than seven passengers

Miss Ruby Yates suddenly reveals a delicious sense of comedy, and is quite irresistible in black pyjamas over her kidneys and bacon.

My children are good looking and healthy and appear to be normal but they are such little terrors that they are making my life unbearable. What is your advice? vice?

Too often is a birthday made nothing more than an occasion for present giving and a party. It should have another side to it, if it is truly to be the subject for congratulations, small balls, flour, and fry in boiling fat.

She was a pathetic figure as she stood in the box wearing a blue coat and a dark straw hat, with a spray of artificial trousers.

*Jacks Laundry...
Leave your clothes here, ladies, and spend the afternoon having a good time.*

Practise the art of deep breathing. After the morning bath take a deep breath, retain as long as possible, then slowly expire.

Fog and smog rolled over Los Angeles today, closing two airports and slowing snails to a traffic pace.

*Auctioneers Catalogue
No. 69 One pair unique 18th century candlesticks
No 70 Another pair, ditto*

Our Lockdown – The Axe & Cleaver



Similar to most we have faced challenges this year as Covid-19 forced us to close abruptly just a day before Mothers Day.

For a moment we were shocked into silence. What were we going to do? How were we going to serve our customers? What does the future hold? We however realised our best course of action would be to persevere in these trying times to find a way to give back to the community that has so tremendously supported us throughout these last 15 years. Within a week we had devised up our own takeaway service to help retain some normalcy for all our loyal customers. Needless to say we were astonished at the response and enjoyed welcoming faces (in masks) old and new. Once we knew we could properly reopen, we were so excited to get back to doing what we love, and doing it safely. During lockdown, we finally had enough time to do a little bit of redecorating and we had worked with chef to create some new exciting options for the menu. Beyond our menu, we've updated our Wednesday and Sunday lunch offering to include starters. We recently hosted a very popular Steak Night which is only one of the many ideas we have for our now ongoing event evenings. The most important thing is we are so happy to be back and are infinitely thankful for all the wonderful support, we would be nothing without our lovely customers. Contact us at 01981 540 203 or on our Facebook page.

The Prime Minister said it was a loose classification by the Board of Trade. "Locomotives, ships and aircraft" should have read "Wire mattresses, tacks, nails and manhole covers"

My eye fell on a tiny basket. It was the size and roughly the shape of a small saucer and it had a handle. In the basket were a number of treasurers, all of them in perfect condition.

*What is the proper way to address the mayor of this city?
Speaking to him: 'Mr Mayor'; on an envelope: 'His Honour the Mayor'; and the salutation in formal letters is 'Dear Sid'.*

*The bride wore a gown of heavy Oldham Corporation Gasworks
STRIP CLUB SHOCK
Magistrates may act on indecent shows.*

*Golden Labrador Dog for sale, 4 years: good driver, clean licence
It is necessary, for technical reasons, that these warheads should be stored with the top at the bottom and the bottom at the top. In order that there may be no doubt as to which is the top and which is the bottom for storage purposes, it will be seen that the bottom of each head has been plainly labelled with the word TOP.*

When the wives are bottled they are put into a cool cellar and kept there for some time

We apologise for last week's error in which we stated that Sergeant Williams was a Defective Constable in the Police Force. This should, of course, have read a Detective Constable in the Police Farce.

Was Downsizing a wise move?

Having lived in a large house in the village for more than 30 years and reaching our eighties we thought it appropriate to find a smaller easy to manage home and garden. Newsletter readers contemplating similar action might be interested to read about some of the experiences we had and hopefully avoid some of the problems encountered.

We soon realised that it was unlikely we would find a property in the immediate area to suit our needs so in 2017 planned to build a a small wooden framed home next to our exiting house. The design we came up with included provision for a full time carer in case we needed one in future. It needed to be ready for occupation in the summer of 2020 to allow our youngest daughter and family to return to the village to live in our vacated house.

Planning permission was obtained with support from the parish council but Herefordshire council were not easy to deal with. In particular, the requirement that part of the new build had to be reduced in height seemed unnecessary and irrational to us.

An inspired decision was the appointment of Andrew Crum as project manager. He used his experience to advise on tradesman, ensured that building materials were delivered at the right time, erected the frame and did the plastering.

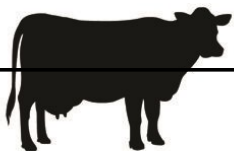
In one respect construction went too well. Herefordshire council ruled that the new building was suitable for occupancy 15 months earlier than our plan and we were required to pay council tax for this period even though it was unoccupied. We were told that it has to be charged by law. In fact the council does have the right to waive such charges but declined to do so. Ironically we would have been entitled to a 25% single occupancy discount had one of us decided to live in it during this time.

We moved most of our our belongings ourselves and were fortunate to have the help of Justin Usherwood and his mate with the heavier items. Because we were downsizing we were forced to dispose of a large number of unwanted items. Difficult decisions had to be made about what to keep and how to dispose of still useful things. The arrangements at the Hereford council tip due to Coronavirus 19 did not help.

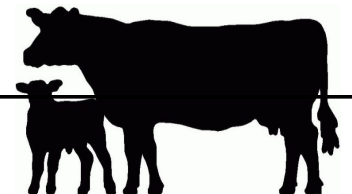
Our first few weeks in the new property were difficult. Remembering where we put things was, and still is, a particular problem. Not having a telephone landline including broadband was a big disadvantage when needing to order food for delivery. It was eventually installed 7 weeks after the promised date and following several hours on a mobile telephone to BT/Openreach.

Did we do the right thing by downsizing? Yes. We are able to stay in the area and we have achieved our objective of having a compact easy to manage uncluttered home with outstanding views. In retrospect we would have done some things differently and especially avoided payment of council tax before occupation-that we regard as unjust.

Jackie & Mike Morley



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Herefordshire Walking Festival, Saturday 19th June – Sunday 27th June 2021

We Want You!

Herefordshire Walking Festival are looking for new volunteer Walk Leaders who would like to showcase their area to both local residents and visitors.

"One advantage during lockdown was that so many people were able to explore new areas on their own doorstep. We would like the festival to encourage more people to continue to find new 'hidden gem' walks and join like-minded people at a social distance during this annual event." Explains organiser Liz Hill

We are looking for walk leaders or back markers at all levels of ability. The festival committee members can provide mentors and advice, if required.

So, if this is something that you would like to try and get involved in, please get in touch.

Tickets will be available in January online at

www.herefordshirewalkingfestival.co.uk

or from Herefordshire Walking Festival, c/o Rural Concierge, 11 Maylord Street, Hereford HR1 2DS.

The printed programme will also be available.

For further information please contact:

Liz Hill t: 01432 370514 / 07966 378170 [in-fo@herefordshirewalkingfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@herefordshirewalkingfestival.co.uk)

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The Nightmare

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I don't know about you, but the months of isolation, the decimation, the lives lost and our ways of life, it has been difficult, to say the least. I'd like to welcome you all to my little venture, to bring something back to the village that I grew up in. This idea eventually transformed in to the mobile events bar known as, The Nightmare. Part of The Eternal Void Ltd and the first stage in hopefully a bright future. Whether you come for the draught products, the outdoor air, the night sky or even just the company, we are here.

Opening hours

Fridays: 3pm till 10pm.

Saturdays: 12pm till 10pm.

Sundays: 12pm till 10pm.

These may differ from week to week, but I'll always let you know! Even in person or you can find us on Facebook. Feel free to get in touch.

All enquiries please email: voidalive@outlook.com

Or ring: 07463761744



The Wheels are Turning - Again!

After a very quiet few months due to COVID-19, we at Rural Concierge are happy to say that we have restarted our day trips and holidays by coach.

Based in Maylord Street in Hereford, we arrange a variety of interesting trips and we can pick up from Kingsthorpe Bus Stop as well as anywhere along the A49.

We are following Government guidelines and to enable us to travel safely, we ask everyone to wear face masks, take everyone's temperature before boarding and evenly spaced out seating on the coach to adhere to social distancing measures.

Our first trip took place on 5th August to Wells in Somerset and everyone enjoyed their visit and felt safe throughout the day. If you wish to join us or have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Our shop is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am until 4:30pm

Please give Liz or Tony a call on 01432 370514 or visit www.rural-concierge.co.uk

Community Café @ Much Birch Community Hall

What a relief it is that the lock-down is easing, people are able to come out of shielding, and we can gradually move into a "new normal". Our volunteers, who have been helping people with shopping and collecting medicines, are all returning to work, and so from September we will not be offering the same service. But be assured, that if the worst happens, and we have to go into lock-down again, we will immediately be up and running!

We must thank all those volunteers who have been so willing to help over the last six months, and we know there have been new friendships made through the experience.

We have been discussing whether the time is right to think about starting up the Community Café again – we have so missed seeing you all for bacon rolls, board games and Linda's famous waffles - but we have decided that it is too early yet. We would have to restrict the numbers so much, and the thought of sending people away is too painful to contemplate. So we are pinning our hopes on the new year as the time when we might be able to gather again, young and old, to enjoy each other's company – there will be a lot of news to catch up on!



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According to Aeschylus, Ethel Annakin, Hiram Johnson and many others....



Who or what is the first casualty of war?

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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

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

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

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In the Sherlock Holmes story by Arthur Conan Doyle, what was the mystery of the dog in the night?



Birches Photography Group



Visit to Hellens Manor – Saturday 5th September 2020

Our group had an amazing time at Hellens taking lots of photos of the gardens and the house and sculptures with beautiful weather— sunshine and clouds which is very important for photographers. We had a variety of camera from SLR to bridge cameras and even bridge cameras.

We stopped for coffee all together at 11 chatted. We discussed it was a very good venue for taking venue throughout the year in different seasons.

Our lunch was the most beautiful spread of quiche with very good salad., Hellens' apple juice and tea, coffee and cake provided – in a in private room in the Haywain barn. Which we all very much enjoyed and it made the day special.

In the afternoon most of us continued to do more photography in the grounds – one couple had a tour of the house which they found most interesting and informative. The group have been invited back during the Autumn and Winter months to return to take photographs in different seasons.

This was a very special visit and we would encourage people to visit Hellens Manor. *Sally Nichol*

Photographs by Angela Pickering, Sally Nichol, Caroline Brown, Hilary Smallwood and Nichola Slater.





'The jewel in the crown of Herefordshire Homes' - COUNTRY HOMES

Hellems Manor is a privately owned, period property, with extensive grounds located near Much Marcle. It has been under the care of the Munthe family for many years. The current custodian is an enthusiastic supporter of the arts from painting and sculpture to music and theatre.

Entrance to the grounds, with its wonderful array of sculptures and artwork, is free. Entrance to the House needs to be pre-arranged online and does carry a moderate fee.

Hellems is currently open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays until late October.

For full details see their website:- <https://hellensmanor.com/>

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My Gardening Year – with Cucamelon accompaniment



The end of December and beginning of January signalled preparation for the annual horticultural shows with the sowing of seed for over 9oz and under 9oz onions. Leeks were sown at the end of January and then onto the beginning of March when long and short carrots and parsnips were sown in their barrels. The experts may do it differently but this works for me. Sweet Peas were sown in two batches – mid February and mid March in root trainers. These items are the only ones that I make a bit of a fuss of, with shows in mind, all the other entries being selected from the basic culinary crops.

When the ground eventually dried up after the winter deluges it became apparent that the 50 onions sets that I had planted in October '19 had suffered. About 20% had survived - all the others had drowned. I replanted the survivors in a short row but they made very little growth through the rest of the season. The second setback occurred at about the time that it was decided to cancel the K&LB horticultural show because of 'you know what'. Slugs were chomping their way through what was intended to be both lots of show carrots.

As we all know there followed a long period of fantastic weather. This allowed me to keep a succession of crops for immediate use available, plus a range of brassicas and root crops for the winter months growing well. Everything grew rapidly and vegetables and fruit were available earlier than they would normally be expected. Fruit particularly benefitted from the sunshine as even my gooseberries could be eaten off the bush in July without the tartness curling my toes up.

The heat and lack of water resulted in a disappointing crop of runner beans. Many pods were, initially, drying up quickly on the vines and then in August two gales in quick succession battered them into submission in my exposed garden. They recovered a little and we have managed a meal per week since. The strong winds blew all the sticks over to about 45 degrees so it will be interesting to see how many 8 foot sticks have been reduced to 7 foot when the row is finally dismantled.

A super crop of onions have been put into storage and a surprisingly good crop of potatoes have been bagged up. In the greenhouses cucumbers and tomatoes have been produced heavy crops together with some huge sweet peppers. I have had a few water melons and have well over 20 bunches of grapes on the vine. Below the vine in the small greenhouse are 6 tubs containing sweet potato plants – these have produced vast amounts of foliage and when entering the house to pick a bunch of grapes I find myself almost waist deep in the foliage. The sweet potatoes will continue growing for another month so I hope the crop matches the foliage.

A couple of years ago I lost control of our 'long' border, which is about 70 feet long, and it became choked with couch and ground elder. Last year and again this year we have been reclaiming it in small sections. The unwanted weeds have been forked out and the sections left bare for several weeks to ensure nothing unwanted has been missed. There is just 15 feet left to reclaim now – the ground elder is under the influence of 2 sprayings of Roundup so it is hoped to fork this final section over before winter.

Now the Cucamelons. Each year a good friend and neighbour gives me a gift at Christmas that is either unusual or amusing. I won't embarrass Iris Lloyd by telling you who it is! Christmas '19 it was packet of Cucamelon seeds. Investigation revealed that Cucamelons are native to Mexico and are also known as Mouse Melons. The climbing/trailing plants produce small fruits that are about as big as grapes, and look like miniature water melons. They can be eaten raw and taste similar to cucumber with a hint of citrus. The plants have been promoted by TV gardener/chef James Wong for the last couple of years in seed catalogues. Apparently they can be included in various types of salad, included in a cocktail drink and pickled. I have eaten quite a few when visiting the greenhouse and have pickled a small jar full but as yet have not sampled them. Mrs. Scrivens does not particularly like them, and I have given family and friends a few to take away to taste but have not heard any comment back. One visiting lady of the community was offered one to try a few weeks ago. She bit into the fruit and exclaimed "B***** H*****" and quickly disposed of it in the nearest bin. Not one of her favourites then ! An interesting plant to grow, producing dozens of the small fruits which are crunchy, juicy and slightly bitter but do not seem to fit in as an accompaniment to our diet.

Derek Scrivens



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PILATES

with Alison Allan

Alison Allan is back!

I have been Zooming away in the summer but am now back at Little Dewchurch

Social distancing is a must and we can do this with 10 people per class – which means I can keep my eye on everyone!

Rollers, soft balls and circles makes for a varied and fun workout whatever our ability.

After our Lockdown Blues we all need to get moving with Pilates for our physical well-being and our mental health - and while we do this, we will improve our posture, balance, strength and general fitness.

My clients are aged between 18 and 95 so there is no excuse! Just give me a call!

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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@gmail.com

14th September 2020

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform, during the Covid 19 Virus pandemic, on the 3rd September 2020 from 7.30 pm.

The Parish Council discussed an amendment to a planning application for homes to be built in the grounds of the Pilgrim Hotel. The planning amendment was to reduce the number of proposed properties from six to five. The Parish Council discussed the hedge cutting season with a request to everyone to try to keep ditches clear of hedge clippings in order to minimise issues with blocked ditches which can potentially lead to flooding. Also a plea goes out to householders, with ditches on their property, to clean their ditches out in readiness for winter where possible.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 8th October 2020 from 7.30pm** - on the Zoom Platform. All are welcome to attend.

Dates for further 2020 Parish Council Meetings are: 5 November and 3 December 2020.

Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend on Zoom 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 thecoops@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>



Scam Alert! spike in fraud offences where the elderly are being targeted

Herefordshire Council have advised that, unfortunately there is another spike in fraud offences where the elderly are being targeted with several incidents reported in the last few days. Please be warn elderly friends, family and neighbours.

Fraudsters are deliberately targeting older and vulnerable people

NEVER ASSUME A PHONE CALL IS AUTHENTIC. JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE KNOWS YOUR BASIC DETAILS SUCH AS NAME AND ADDRESS.

ActionFraud

Do you know who is calling?

Don't part with any of your personal information, bank cards, money or valuables. Remember:

- C**riminals may be calling. Suspect anyone you don't know, regardless of who they claim to be.
- A**nswer **'NO'** to any personal questions. Don't part with any of your personal information or money. Remember, the police and your bank would NEVER ask for such details as your PIN or account numbers over the phone.
- L**eave the conversation. If you are suspicious or feel uncomfortable with the caller's questions, then end the call.
- L**et us know. If in doubt hang up and wait 10 minutes, then report to Action Fraud: 0300 123 2040 | www.actionfraud.police.uk or the police (101)

Please use this sticker on your phone as a reminder to CALL

A genuine caller will never ask you to:
- send a payment to collect cash, bank cards, or valuables
- ask you to withdraw or transfer money
- send anything up or wait 10 minutes, then call back
- send you 101, 0300 or any other number or the police (101)

West Mercia POLICE

Scam Alert

The police will never ask you to hand over any money or purchase vouchers.

If you ever get a call from anyone asking you to transfer money or pay with vouchers

STOP!
Hang up #TakeFive
Verify #Tel12

COMMON EXAMPLE OF COURIER FRAUD

- Phone call out of the blue
- Claims to be your bank or police
- Advises of an issue with your card
- Asks for your PIN
- Sends courier to collect your card

ActionFraud