

The Birches

Community Matters Newsletter

Kingsthorpe, Much Birch, Little Birch,
Aconbury & Wormelow **October 2024**



Kings Thorn & Little Birch
Gardening Club Annual Show
Report in November



Autumn Prize Bingo



LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 18TH
OCTOBER
EYES DOWN AT 7:30PM



Fun for the whole family
Refreshments available

King's Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club

Queenswood Country Park & Arboretum

Free guided walk October 30th, 2- 4pm
The Acer autumn colours are always worth a
visit to the arboretum.

Free parking and tea after the walk in the
newly refurbished café, £5pp. Pre-booking on
this event please, for catering purposes.

Contact Lesley Chapman - 07834 771838/
Lesleychapman55@sky.com

Also state any dietary requirements please.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

On Saturday October 19th. commencing at 10a.m. we will be having a work day at St. Mary's, Little Birch. We only have a few people who regularly clean and decorate the church and also keep the churchyard mowed and tidy. We would like as many people as possible to come and help us do a whole range of jobs that need doing before winter.

If you can only come for a couple of hours it would still be a big help. You may not come to church very often but we are always there for your baptisms, weddings and funerals and the special services throughout the year.

Harvest Festival

The following day, Sunday October 20th. at 3p.m. is our Harvest Festival, it would be nice to see as many people attend as possible. Thank you.

Local Footpaths to be Improved

Local footpath officers Chris Fowler and David Irwin are delighted that their application for grants to improve the local footpaths, has been successful. Over the coming months you will start to notice old dilapidated stiles in Aconbury, Little Birch and Much Birch being replaced with self-closing gates and kissing gates as well as other improvements.

This will make many of our paths more accessible to people with limited mobility and dog walkers. We have benefited from an allocation of extra funds that Herefordshire Council received and was set aside for public rights of way. We will keep you updated with photos and reports on the Facebook pages.

Chris Fowler & David Irwin

Join us at the Community Café @ Much Birch Community Hall

Saturday 12 October 2024

10:00 - 12:30

and every 2nd Saturday of the month

9 November

14 December

11 January 2025



A local group who want to bring people together, strengthen community links and provide relaxed and fun events for all ages.

Your Ad Could Be Here

Birches Newsletter is distributed to over 200 houses in Little Birch, Much Birch, Kingsthorpe and Wormelow

Advertising rates on p10

email: editorial@birchesnews.org.uk



**FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS**

**at Much Birch
Community Hall**

Thursday 17 October - SCRAPPER 12

This vibrant and inventive father-daughter comedy follows Georgie, a resourceful 12-year-old girl who secretly lives alone in her flat in a working class suburb of London following the death of her mother. Out of nowhere, her estranged father Jason arrives and forces her to confront reality. Uninterested in this sudden new parental figure, Georgie is stubbornly resistant to his efforts. As they adjust to their new circumstances, Georgie and Jason find that they both still have a lot of growing up to do.

Next month...

Thursday 14 November—THE MIRACLE CLUB 12A

Tickets £5 (£4 under 16s)

**Refreshments including hot dogs and ice cream
available from 7pm**

Tickets available in advance or on the door (cash or card payments accepted)- 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*

Art and Craft Space

We meet every Thursday afternoon 2 until 4 at Little Birch Village Hall at the top of Barrack Hill HR2 8AZ.

We bring along our own projects and have a monthly theme. Feel free to do your own projects. You don't have to follow the themes if you would rather do something else. For more information please contact Sally Nichol

tel. 07803 032928 01981 540001
email sally.nichol@btinternet.com

Twenty Five Years of the Millenium Green



When Rosemary Rigby discovered that the field next to her house was for sale she decided she would buy it. Her cousin, Geoffrey, came from Northamptonshire to bid on her behalf at the auction which took place at the Black Swan in Much Dewchurch on 8th November 1978. She was delighted to get a phone call from Geoffrey telling her "It's yours! It's yours!"

In 1996 the late Queen Elizabeth appealed for 250 Millenium Greens to be created throughout the land for the benefit of local communities. Once again, the redoubtable Miss Rigby did not hesitate. "I decided to give my very precious little field away," she said. It became a Millenium

Green on 1st January 2000, an occasion marked by local people with the planting of an English Oak at 11am at top of the Green followed by a celebration with mince pies and sherry. It is the only Millenium Green in South Herefordshire.

"It remains safe for 1000 plus years for the people of Wormelow, Much Dewchurch, Much Birch and Llanwarne," explained Rosemary who has been caring for the Green and welcoming people to events there throughout the last 25 years, including the annual Remembrance Service, which this year is on Friday 8th November at 10.30am, led by Revd Mark. Children from Much Birch School will be there, taking a very active part in the service. Everyone is welcome.

The Millenium Green is of course next door to the Violette Zsabo Museum, founded and run by Rosemary Rigby to celebrate the life and bravery of this hero of the Second World War who was awarded the George Cross posthumously. This fascinating collection tells the story of Violette and attracts visitors from all over the world throughout the year as well on the Summer Open Day.

A group of racehorse owners named their horse Violette Zsabo in homage to the war hero. The horse had her first win at Beverley just days before the owners brought her to the celebration of what would have been Violette Zsabo's 100th birthday, June 21st, honoured with an RAF fly past.

Bulb Planting on the Millenium Green

Bring and plant bulbs which will create spring colour as the Millenium Green celebrates 25 years in 2025. You can bring bulbs to the Remembrance Service on Friday 8th November and on Sunday 10th November from 2-4pm. New Year bulb planting on Wednesday 1st January.

Table Tennis
Tuesday 1st October

Little Birch Village Hall 7-9pm £3

Footpath Officers

If you have any queries about footpaths contact:

Little Birch and Aconbury

Chris Fowler chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk

07931 292998

Much Birch including Kingsthorpe:

David Irwin david.irwin13@btinternet.com

07766 135068

A vertical advertisement for Pilates sessions. At the top, it says "PILATES with Alison Allan". Below that, it says "LITTLE DEWCHURCH VILLAGE HALL". The main text reads "SENIORS PILATES Monday 11.15am-12.15pm". There is a photo of Alison Allan, a woman with blonde hair, smiling and holding blue dumbbells. To the right of the photo, it says "Book Now" and provides contact information: "07947 011707", "www.perfectbalance.life", and "alison@perfectbalance.life". At the bottom, it says "Join Alison Allan for Pilates" and describes the sessions: "Pilates sessions are taught as small group classes and as individual one to one sessions. Pilates is a great way to keep your body feeling agile and energised. The movements focus on posture, alignment, core strength, balance and flexibility." There is a circular logo for "PERFECT BALANCE" on the left side of the advertisement.

**Coffee Morning With Book Exchange
Little Birch Village Hall
Thursday 3rd & Saturday
19th October 10-12 noon**

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, some cake or biscuits. Make new friends, catch up with old friends. Take a book, leave a book or both. Exchange recommendations for a good read. Families & well behaved dogs welcome.

Jobs for the Garden in October

This year's weather certainly had an adverse effect on the King's Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club horticultural show with low numbers of vegetable entries much of which were also of poor quality. The flowers turned out reasonably well despite periods of torrential rain in the days leading up to the show. The one thing I noticed which is not affected by the weather was the low number of domestic entries – surely the art of baking and jam making isn't a thing of the past. Well done to Lesley and the Gardening Club Committee and congratulations to all the trophy winners.

Jobs to Do

- *Remove saucers from under outside pots and containers, raise them off the ground onto 'pot feet' or battens to maintain good drainage.
- *Check that greenhouse heaters are in working order.
- *Lift and divide large clumps of perennials.
- *Lift and store dahlia tubers.
- *Mist house plants.
- *Collect up leaves of roses affected by blackspot and burn, if you are able, or put in your garden waste bin.
- *Remove larger figs which are unlikely to ripen leaving only pea sized fruit. Protect from frost to ripen next year.
- *Keep harvesting apples, pears and grapes.
- *In sheltered plots sow broad beans at end of the month.
- *They must be hardy eg The Sutton or Aquadulce.
- *Plant garlic.
- *Plant out Spring cabbage.
- *Clear away and compost all spent vegetable foliage eg. runner bean vines, and also clear weeds. Loosen any compacted areas of soil with a fork and ideally sow a green manure crop on areas of bare soil.
- *Continue to feed birds and provide fresh water.
- *Chop up windfall apples and pears. Place on bird tables
- *Remove fruit nets. If you have a fruit cage, remove the 'roof' net just in case we have snow.
- *Remove fallen leaves from ponds to prevent the buildup of too much decaying organic material in the water.
- *Clean out and re-hang nesting boxes.

Derek Scrivens

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Learning more about the Bible

We have started our local Bible course in the Hall at Much Birch and it has been running for 3 weeks. It goes without saying that this collection of books is fundamental to my faith as a Christian, as it is to many people but that doesn't mean that someone with no faith or even only a glimmer of faith can't learn something useful.

For example, despite books by Julia Donaldson, J.K. Rowling, and Richard Osman being best sellers, the Bible is still one of the best-selling books across Europe and the world.

It also has some great stories, such as Samson and the Lion, Joseph and his coat of many colours, Paul's journeys around the Eastern Mediterranean and,

obviously, the story of Jesus. It also has poetry and prose that reflect every human emotion. So you can find people in despair, people rejoicing in the harvest, jealousy and envy, good deeds and great courage.

So, even if you don't have any faith, it is a great insight into human emotion. The problem with the Bible is that, like any collection of books, there are ones that you will struggle to get through. The Book of Numbers in the Old Testament comes to mind, who wants to read what seems like a survey of the census of the people of God from 3000 years ago?

But if you take your time and search the Bible you can find all that you need to help you get through life. And maybe something to help you grow your faith.

Revd Mark

Church Services in October

Sunday 6th October	9.15 a.m. at Much Dewchurch – Holy Communion 1.00 a.m. at Little Birch – Holy Communion
Sunday 13th October	10.00 a.m. at Much Birch – Harvest Service with Much Birch School Choir 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch - Morning Worship
Sunday 20th October	9.15 a.m. at Much Birch – Morning Worship 3.00 p.m. at Little Birch – Harvest Praise with Archdeacon, Fiona Gibson, as guest preacher
Sunday 27th October	9.15 a.m. at Llandinabo – Holy Communion in Traditional Language

Fungi Foray

**Sunday 13th October 1.45 for 2pm
meeting at Little Birch Village Hall**

Led by Mike Stroud of the Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group and his colleagues.. A very short walk to Aconbury Hill, returning to the Village Hall for refreshments. Limited to 20 so book a place with Chris Fowler.

**Message or email 07931292998
Chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk**



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Or email:
Muchbirchslowflowyoga@gmail.com



More Information: Tel 07503 199 972 or 07964 821 087

Photography Group

We are a friendly local group who are keen and enjoy our imaging skills. We invite anyone who has an interest in taking photos to come and join us. You will be made very welcome.

For more information please contact Sally Nichol. tel. 07803 032928 01981 540001
email sally.nichol@btinternet.com

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ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK UNDERTAKEN

**Remember, remember
the 5th November
Stay Safe on Bonfire Night
See page 9 for ROSPA's tips on how
to have a safe fireworks display**



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Is it time to learn some simple relaxation tools to let go of
unhelpful learned behaviours?

Is it time to change your relationship with yourself?

My work led me around the world teaching individually
and as a course leader offering WorkShops (or maybe
RestShops!) to slowly soften, unwind and return home
to ourselves, allowing our bodies to rest and our
minds to slow down through profound yet simple
relaxation practices. Maybe it's time to give yourself
these easily learned gifts?

I hold regular small afternoon groups as well as
individual sessions in my Garden Studio in Little
Birch.

If you know you need to dial down please get in touch
07985 252166

**Upcoming events : Deep Relaxation afternoons @
Little Birch Village Hall 2 December.**

Areas of interest and training include Yoga, Yin Yoga,
Vinyasa Yoga, Reflexology, Fascia Release, Wheel of
Consent, Shamanic Practices including Sweat Lodges
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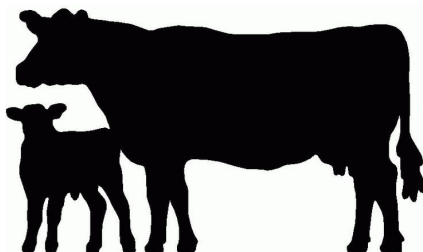
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Items for **November** newsletter to
editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or paper
copy to Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 by
8th October

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Much Birch Parish Council

At Much Birch Parish Council Meeting on 5th September the parish council accepted the resignation of long serving councillor, Andy Crum. The parish council paid tribute to his service and formally recorded thanks for his work on behalf of the parish. A casual vacancy for a new councillor will be advertised. There was also a discussion about planning consultation 241967 for a single storey extension at Four Winds, Tump Lane. The council supported the proposal for the extension in application 241967. The dates for forthcoming meetings, October 3rd November 7th and December 5th at Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm. All welcome.

Hedge Cutting

There was a reminder for anyone cutting their hedges to please clear up as much of the clippings as possible to avoid blockages to drains and ditches.

Little Birch Parish Facebook Group

Find the latest news, events & 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 local area.

Much Birch Parish Councillors

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW, thecoops@wyenet.co.uk
01981 540703

Cllr Andrew Crum Tan-y-coed, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, HR2 8AX, a.crum@btinternet.com 01981 540002

Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch HR28AX Kingsthorpe roisinburge@hotmail.com
01981 540840

Cllr David Irwin, 5 The Old Mushroom Farm, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HY **Tel:** 07766 135068
email David.Irwin13@btinternet.com

Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey 4 Court Farm Barns, Much Birch HR2 8HT chris@pickering-grey.uk 07712 813218

Cllr Michael Agyeman Little Willow, Wrigglebrook, magyeman92@gmail.com

Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone HR2 9NE muchbirchclerk@gmail.com
01981 250860

Minutes of meetings

www.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

<https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC><https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is seeking to appoint a new Lengthsman for the Parish. Duties will include mowing, strimming, clearing ditches and gullies, digging grips, cleaning signs, trimming overgrowth of plants and general minor roads upkeep and maintenance. Relevant experience and appropriate insurance are essential.

If you are interested in applying for the post an application form can be obtained by contacting: Alison Wright (Parish Clerk)

E mail: muchbirchclerk@gmail.com

Nine tips for Safer Fireworks from RoSPA

1. Keep fireworks in a closed box and use one at a time.
2. Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.
3. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
4. Keep flames and cigarettes, away from fireworks.
5. Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
6. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
7. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
8. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
9. Make sure the fire is out and surroundings are safe before leaving.

Little Birch Parish Councillors

Cllr Steve Coles Cllr Tom Palfrey
Cllr Chris Atkinson Cllr Nick Deacon
Neil Barrington, clerk lbpcclerk@gmail.com

Website www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

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Diary Dates October 2024

Table Tennis Tues 1st LBVH	P3
LBPC Wed 2nd LBVH	p9
Coffee & Books Thurs 3rd LBVH	p4
MBPC Thurs 3rd MBCH	p9
Fungi Foray 13th	p5
Community Café Sat 12th MBCH	p2
Flicks MBCH Fri 17th	P2
LB Church workday Sat 19th	P2
Coffee & Books Sat 19th LBVH	p4
Harvest Festival LB Church 20th	p2
Garden Club Queenswood 30th	P1
Art & Craft Thursdays 2-4 LBVH	p2
Photography Group	p6
Church Services	p5



It's Your Newsletter!

The newsletter is a forum for everyone and we love to hear your stories and suggestions. It is great to hear about events happening in the area or perhaps you have a special interest, skill or hobby or trip you would like to tell us about and maybe photos. Let us know any ideas you have for things you would like to see in the newsletter.

Email your ideas or offerings to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk.

Elisabeth Taylor Editor

Advertising Rates

11 editions per year (no August newsletter)

1/16 page £4.20 per issue or £42 per year

1/8th page £4.80 per issue or £48 per year

¼ page £5.40 per issue or £54 per year

½ page £9.60 per issue or £96 per year

Payment by BACS through Santander

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Put your business name as reference

Defibrillator Locations

IN A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 999

AEDs available to use locally for those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. A defibrillator is an easy to use, medical device that analyses the heart's rhythm and, if needed, delivers an electrical shock (defibrillation) to help the heart establish an effective rhythm.

Allensmore Locks Garage

Backney on the garage wall at Market Gardens Cottage

Bridstow on the outside of the village hall

Garway on the wall outside the Garway Moon pub

Harewood End at Harewood End Inn on outside of the pub at the back in the beer garden.

Little Birch on the outside of the village hall

Llanwarne on the wall by steps leading up to the village hall

Much Birch on the outside of the church hall

Much Dewchurch outside Steiner School, first building after the church

Peterstow at the Yew Tree pub

Sellack on the outside of the parish hall (key code needed)

St Weonards old BT phone box off the A466 between the church and Forge Cottage

Wormelow at the Cricket Club & Carrot & Wine shop

Wilton on wall at the BP garage on the roundabout

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