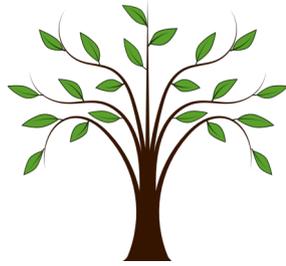


happy
new
year
2019



THE ***Birches***

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

First published 1977 **January 2019**

LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL

2019 PANTOMIME



FRIDAY 25th Jan
7.30pm
SATURDAY 26th Jan
2.00 & 7.30pm

ADULTS £6
JUNIORS £4

Tickets from MARGARET
01981 540374

**HARLEQUIN
& COLUMBINE**

Diary Dates

January 2019

3rd	MC Parish Council Meeting MBCH
3rd	Coffee Morning LBVH 10.30am
6th	Parish Walk from LBVH 9am
8th	Whist Drive LBVH 7.30pm
12th	Wassail LBVH
15th	WI Meeting MBCH
17th	Hereford Civic Society ASDA
19th	Book Exchange Methodist Chapel
25-26th	LB Panto
30th	Gardening Club LBVH

**Christmas Cracker and
Commemorative Tree Planting**
See Page 3 for details.

Church Services December/ January 2018/9



Sunday 23rd December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Little Birch 4.00 p.m. Carols and Christingle
Much Birch 6.30 p.m. Traditional Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

Much Birch 3.30 p.m. Carols and Crib Service
Much Dewchurch 11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Much Birch 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion
Little Birch 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 30th December - First Sunday after Christmas

Group Communion Service at Llandinabo 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 6th January 2019 - Epiphany

Little Birch 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion.



Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for January 2019

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 3rd January 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** is on **Tuesday 8th January** 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 19th January** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12pm**.

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.

The Little Birch Pantomime

Little Birch Drama Group Present **“HARLEQUIN AND COLUMBINE”**

At Little Birch Village Hall on **Friday 25th January 7.30pm** and **Saturday 26th January 2pm and 7.30pm**

Adults £6 Children £4. Tickets available from Margaret 01981 540374

Land Adjacent to Castle Pool Cottage Little Birch

The Herefordshire Council Planning Committee refused the application to build three houses on this site. At the meeting the committee supported objections from the Ward Councillor, the Parish Council, represented by the clerk and Kate Dillon on behalf of nearby residents.

Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club



The next meeting of the Club is on **Wednesday 30th January, 2019** when the speaker will be Roger Umpelby with a talk entitled “Bees, what’s all the fuss about?”. Roger is another of our returning favourites. He is an entomologist and passionate gardener. With all the recent concerns about our bee populations this will be an interesting evening. We would love to see some new faces who would be most welcome to join us at Little Birch Village Hall.

Much Birch Surgery

Have you heard about social prescribing?

Once a week, Meg Clifford, our Social Prescriber is available at the surgery to meet patients individually to discuss matters which do not require a healthcare professional.

What is social prescribing?

Social prescribing has been around for over thirty years in England but it is a new NHSE initiative in Herefordshire. The programme is designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs. Many of the schemes across the country focus on improving particular issues; for example mental health, loneliness, physical wellbeing or access to other support systems.

Reception, your GP or nurse can refer you, or you can refer yourself to see Meg to discuss your health and wellbeing.

You might be thinking: how can this help me? Here are a couple of examples of signposting:

The Men’s Shed in Ross on Wye: Perhaps you have retired and feel at a loose end and would like to get involved with a group of likeminded men who make items in the fully equipped workshop provided by Herefordshire Council? Or would just like to drop in to have a cup of tea? To find out more, email m.shed@btinternet.com or call David Moore 01989 763664.

The Meeting Centre in Ross on Wye is a new venue which offers support both for those with mild to moderate dementia and their carers. It is a space for people to socialise and participate with their carers in a variety of activities. rossmeetingcentre@gmail.com or 07498032839.

There are many more opportunities that Meg can assist with, from help filling in forms, or getting access to carer’s support, to organising community transport to go shopping.

Does social prescribing work for patients?

Studies have pointed to improvements in quality of life and emotional wellbeing. Participants across England say how satisfied and life changing getting involved in the community has been for them.

If you would like to know more speak to your GP or the surgery reception.

No Stress, No Worries,

Glazy Days

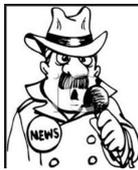
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Reports from our Community.....

If you wish to send a report on a local event—or news you wish to share—send copy to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk.



Village Christmas Cracker

The event took place on Saturday 8th December and proved to be a great success.

It was great to see so many people converge on the Parish Field to see John Bryant plant an apple tree in recognition of his incredible service to the community of Little Birch and surrounding villages.

In LBVH many of the groups who use the village hall set up displays to showcase their activities. We were pleased to welcome the group that produce the newsletter and also friends from St. Mary's Church who exhibited a number of historical documents. Games and a drawing table were provided for the children.

On behalf of LBVH Committee I would like to sincerely thank all who organised displays, the Coffee Morning 'girls' and other ladies who contributed to the buffet. Finally a big thank you to all of you who came along and supported the event.

Margaret Scrivens

Christmas Cracker and Commemorative Tree Planting

Congratulations to Little Birch Village Hall Committee for organising this novel, enjoyable and well attended event on 8th December.

The afternoon started with the planting of a Herefordshire Russet apple tree on the parish field by John Bryant. John was introduced by Parish Council Chairman Ben Roberts who outlined the outstanding service John has given to the area and especially to the Village Hall including many years as Chairman of the Management Committee.

The Hall was built by public subscription in the early 1950's but was soon closed. John came to Little Birch in the 1970's and before long was instrumental in reopening the hall and it has been in regular use ever since. John was involved in many of the activities especially as Chairman the Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club.

The annual horticultural show is renowned and John's skill as an auctioneer to sell the produce at the end will long be remembered.

Many will also remember that in 2013 a highlight event in the hall was the presentation of a British Empire Medal to John by Lady Darnley, Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire in recognition of his work for the community that included his long time part in church affairs.

The afternoon continued with entertainment and exhibits by local groups. Young people representing the Drama Group sang songs from previous stage performances. Church representatives showed birth and marriage records and event photographs that caused great interest.

The recently formed Art Group exhibited examples of their work. Gardening Club members exhibited specimen plants. History Group photographs from the old Little Birch School were projected onto a screen. Archive copies of the Newsletter were on show. The Book Exchange brought a collection of books and arranged a village hall related quiz. Toys were provided for the very young to play with and everyone enjoyed the excellent tea provided.

The committee should be well pleased with the success of the afternoon and hopefully will be motivated to make it an annual event.

None of the responses to the quiz questions were totally correct.

Alison Clarke got most right answers and won the book-token prize. A copy of the questions and answers is posted on the hall notice board.

Please send copy for the February Newsletter to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to Liz Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW.

—by 18th January please.

COMPOST HEAP
Invite you to their annual

Wassail

At Little Birch Hall

SATURDAY
JANUARY 12TH

7.00 for 7.30 p.m.
In aid of
The Haven
A local charity offering support for those affected by breast cancer

It's the same old twaddle! Come and dress up warm, with noise-making equipment, to process to the orchard and make a traditional Wassail around the apple trees, followed by the traditional MUMMERS PLAY and entertainment in the Village Hall.

There will be FOOD available
Tickets (£7.50 & £4 u12) from:
Bob and Sue Chance 01981 540725
Bob Mason 07771574490
There will be a BAR

Much Birch Community Hall Management Committee is delighted to announce that their application to the The Big Lottery Fund has been successful. On Tuesday, 6th December 2018 a cheque for £104,420 pounds was presented to the Chairman by Matt Poole, Head of Regional Funding for the Midlands, after the showing of the film 'Mamma Mia! – Here we go again'.

The award is to fund the completion of an extension to the existing building which will upgrade facilities as well as to provide two additional meeting rooms, a larger entrance lobby, a larger kitchen and improved toilet arrangements. (The refurbishment of the new kitchen was not part of the submission and will take place as further funds become available.)

In his acceptance of the cheque, the Chairman thanked The Big Lottery and all players of the National Lottery, without whom this award would not have been possible. He also recognized the importance of the local people who have raised funds and supported the project in various ways. He went on to thank all those who helped compile the extensive funding application, particularly Sylvia Jones, Heidi MacDougall and Carole Chichester. He hoped that the new facilities will provide opportunities for the community to get involved in running new groups for leisure activities to suit all ages.

The year 2019 will also see the celebration of 40 years since the opening of the Community Hall, which will be celebrated together during the summer with the completion of the project.

John Jones
Chairman of the Management Committee

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club
Results of the 100 club draw which took place on 9th December 2018 in the Community Hall are as follows:

1st prize – No 74 2nd prize - No. 99
Mr. B. Clouder Mrs. M. Hill
King's Thorn Kings Thorn

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

John Jones—Promoter

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Much Birch Village Hall

Every Friday

9.30am – 12.30pm

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Karen 07817716137 or Lucy lcook8910@gmail.com

Striders & Strollers:

Meet the Striders & Strollers, a group that meets regularly at one of Herefordshire's most popular beauty spots.



St Michael's Hospice
Always a place of light and love

Open to anyone who has been bereaved, whether they have accessed services at St Michael's Hospice or not, the group is a monthly gathering for all ages meeting at Queenswood Country Park, between Hereford and Leominster.

Those attending enjoy the company of others and the chance to round off the walk with a hot drink and a slice of cake in the Queenswood Cafe.

The walks are held each month with a longer walk, away from Queenswood, also held regularly.

There is no time limit to the group, with some regulars having attended for around two years.

Shirley Young, a Social Worker at St Michael's, is one of those who leads the walks. 'There is no pressure whatsoever to talk about your loss; the topic of conversation can range from the weather to your favourite book or TV programme.

'But we find that those who join us build up a friendship with many of their fellow walkers, leading to them returning each month.'

Striders & Strollers is free to take part in, but parking charges apply at Queenswood.

To find out more call Shirley on 01432 851 000.

Plant Fair:

St Michael's Hospice Plant Fair, Friday 3rd May and Saturday 4th May 2019, 10.30am-4pm. St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree, HR1 4HA

Can you help? If you enjoy gardening and are able to grow some extra plants to donate to us to sell at our Plant Fair, please get in touch with Gaynor by telephone 01432 852 630 or email gwarren@smhospicehereford.org.

If you make and/or sell garden-related products and would like to have a pitch at the Fair, please contact Gaynor to find out more details.

Paul Broome

Communications Officer, St Michael's Hospice

Tel 01432 852 643

Fax 01432 851 022

st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

facebook.com/stmichaels-hospice-hereford

twitter.com/stmichaelshosp

Parish Walk

Sunday 6 January at 9am

Meeting at Little Birch Village Hall and walking towards Little Dewchurch. Refreshments back at the hall afterwards - 4.5 miles.

All Welcome!

Angela Middleton

Volunteer Footpath Officer



**Meeting of the Hereford Civic Society
Thursday 17th January**

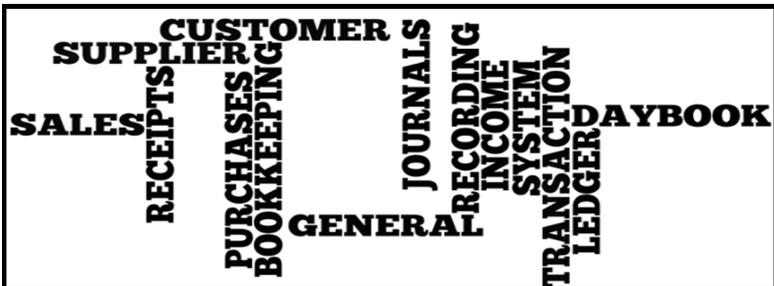
7.30pm Kindle Centre
besides Hereford ASDA, HR2 7JE

100 years ago:

A Cathedral School boy's diary of 1919:

Illustrated talk by historian Dr Howard Tomlinson, former Headmaster of Hereford Cathedral School

Membership £15pa., visitor £3 donation



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Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright
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Gooses Foot,
Kingstone
Herefordshire
HR2 9NE

Tel. 01981 250860
Email: muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk

**Neighbourhood Development Plan -
Much Birch Parish**

The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Much Birch is progressing well with a "call for sites" having taken place. The outcome of this exercise is now being evaluated and will form part of the Neighbourhood Plan written for the parish. There will be a further **Consultation Day**, to which all are invited, on Saturday 16th March 2019 from 10.00am to 4.00pm when there will be the opportunity to see how things have progressed to date.

Please also see below for future Steering Group Meeting dates:

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

10 January, 31 January, 28 February, 28 March, 2nd May, 30 May, 27 June, 29 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November.

Please remember that your opinion, and any input to the plan, is welcomed at all stages of the process. Meetings are public and open to all.



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BOOKING ADVISABLE

ARTSPACE PLUS!

Artspace will be running again in January but **BIGGER AND BETTER!**

IT WILL NOW INCLUDE A WRITING GROUP.

An informal group providing a great opportunity to enjoy collective creative writing. No geniuses - everyone else welcome, whether or not you have done anything like this before. Do come along and have a go - you might uncover hidden talents - or at least have a fun time!

Both Artspace and Write On! will be held at LBVH 3-5pm on Thursdays for 6 weeks from 10th January - 14th February 2019

Have a happy Christmas and hope to see you at Artspace/Write On! in the New Year (*go on treat yourself!*)



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Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI meets on the third Tuesday of each
month in Much Birch Community Hall, just off the
A49. The Hall is next door to the surgery and both
are signed from the road.

Please contact Sallie on 01432
340069
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Household recycling and rubbish collections

Normal collection day

Tuesday 25 Dec
Wednesday 26 Dec
Tuesday 1 Jan 2019

Revised collection day

Saturday 22 Dec	✓
Saturday 29 Dec	✓
Saturday 5 Jan 2019	✓

No collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Please put your bin out by 6.30 a.m. on your collection day, or the night before, throughout the festive period.

Household Recycling Centres

Will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day but open as usual on all other days.

Details of opening times can be found on our website.

Depositing of business waste is prohibited at all sites.

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arts alive **FLICKS IN THE STICKS** at Much Birch Community Hall

Thursday 24th January, 7.30 pm - **SWIMMING WITH MEN** 12A

A warming British comedy to start the new year!
 A man who is suffering a mid-life crisis finds new meaning in his life as part of an all-male, middle-aged, amateur synchronised swimming team.

Starring Rob Brydon, Rupert Graves, Adeel Akhtar, Jim Carter and Jane Horrocks

Refreshments including hot dogs available from 7pm

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Coming up in February...

Tuesday 26th February, 7.30 - **KING OF THIEVES** 15

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com or 01981 540097

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

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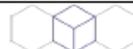
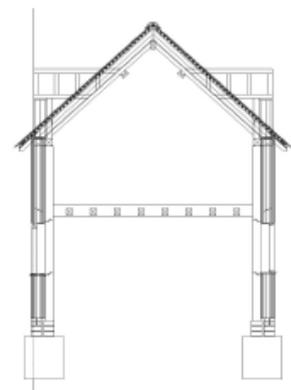
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NEW OPENING TIMES

Monday—fish and chip night 5pm - 11pm

Tuesday—pizza night 5pm - 11pm

Wednesday—steak night 5pm - 11pm

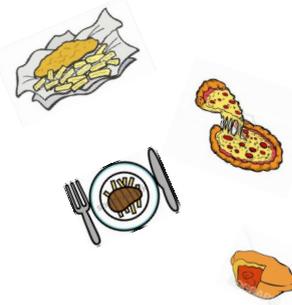
Thursday—pie night 5-11pm

Friday 5-11pm

Saturday all day

Sunday lunch 12-4pm

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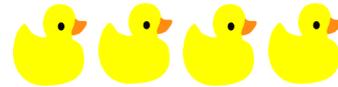
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Little Birch Parish Council

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

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

CLlr Ben Roberts	Chairman	01981 540100	b3nroberts@gmail.com
CLlr Steve Naylor		01981 541323	steve.naylor5@btinternet.com
CLlr Mike Morley		01981 541027	morley04@globalnet.co.uk
CLlr Annette Wissler		Contact through the clerk	
CLlr Janet Gwinnett		01981 540651	janetgwinnett@hotmail.com
Angela Middleton	Volunteer Foot Paths Officer	01981 540377	ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk
Sophie Glover	PC Clerk	01432 270499	littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council meetings usually happen at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month and all parishioners are very welcome to attend. Agendas are posted on the Parish notice board at least three days in advance and are also on our web site.

Thank you.

Mrs Sophie Glover, Little Birch Parish Clerk, The Orchard, Ridgehill, Hereford HR2 8AG

Website: www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

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

Yoga



In Much Dewchurch and Steiner Academy
Mondays 6.00—7.15

- ⇒ Tension and stiffness?
- ⇒ Back ache, backache, general aches and pains?
- ⇒ Difficulty sleeping?

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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.

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17th December 2018

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th December 2018 at the Much Birch Community Hall. The Parish Council discussed a further local planning application and made their comments. The new grit bins had been placed around the parish and the new bins would be filled as soon as the supplies of grit had been delivered. Just a reminder that the grit, in all of the roadside bins, is provided for use on the **roads only** and is not for use on private driveways. The Parish Council and those present heard about the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan and there would be further opportunities for the public to engage with the process coming up. Please see a more detailed Neighbourhood Plan update in this edition of Birches News.

A reminder that the dates for the 2019 Meetings are as follows: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 9, June 6, July 4, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 3rd January 2019 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall.

Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

A reminder that:-

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, 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 Rosemary Rigby MBE Cartref, Tump Lane, Wormelow, Herefordshire, HR2 8HN Tel. 01981 540477

Full minutes of the meetings and information etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link found in this summary. www.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

You can also find us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT

West Mercia Police



Horse/pony/animal help available -

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