

# THE **Birches**

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

*First published 1977* **September 2019**

## **LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL DRAMA GROUP the 2020 Pantomime**



Unfortunately our resident Director is unable to Direct the next Pantomime at Little Birch Hall.

As a result of this we are now looking for somebody to Direct the next Panto which is due to be performed in late January 2020

It is a fun group of people with lots of experience always willing to have a go.

We are always looking for new members to either act, help behind the scenes, construct sets or make costumes.

If you are interested in Directing the next Panto, just getting involved or would just like more information, please contact David Baldwin on 01981 541198, Peter Rees on 01981 541356 or any member of the Village Hall committee.

Thank You,

LBVH Drama Group

## **Diary Dates**

### **September 2019**

- 4th LB Parish Council Meeting
- 5th Coffee Morning LBVH
- 5th MB Parish Council Meeting
- 7th Community Café MBCH
- 7th LB Garden Show LBVH
- 8th Parish Walk from LBVH
- 10th Whist at LBVH
- 12th Arts and Crafts LBVH
- 13th MB Village Market
- 18th Table Tennis LBVH
- 21st Booking Exchange Methodist Hall
- 21st Big Band at MB Church
- 28th Table Top Sale MBCH
- 28th Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group MBCH

## **Church Services September 2019**

Sunday 1st September: Little Birch Communion  
11.00 a.m.

Sunday 8th September: Much Birch Family  
Communion 9.15 a.m.

Little Birch Morning  
Worship 11.00 a.m.

Sunday 15th September: Much Birch Communion  
9.15 a.m.  
Little Birch Traditional  
Communion 11.00 a.m.

Sunday 22nd September: Much Birch Morning  
Worship 9.15 a.m.

Sunday 29th September: Feast of St. Michael and All  
Angels at Dewsall at 11.00 a.m.

## **MUCH BIRCH COMMUNITY HALL VILLAGE MARKETS**

Due to the fact that the number of stalls at the market has reduced this year and the footfall has decreased we have decided to cut the number of markets. Therefore there will be no regular 4<sup>th</sup> Friday monthly markets but there will be two specials as follows both from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

**Autumn Market on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Christmas Market on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Refreshments will be served as usual**

Please send copy for the October Newsletter to [editorial@birchesnews.org.uk](mailto:editorial@birchesnews.org.uk) or written contributions to Liz Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW.

—by 18th September please.

# Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for September 2019

## Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 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 10<sup>th</sup> September** 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 21<sup>st</sup> September** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12noon**.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable monthly event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for a good read. There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire and refreshments.

## Table Tennis Sessions

The next table tennis sessions will be on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September** at Little Birch Village Hall **between 7pm and 9pm**. All abilities are welcome as the idea is to have a bit of fun and exercise. Equipment is supplied. Sessions will be once a month, but this could be more frequent if there is enough demand. Similarly, if there is sufficient interest, we may also be able to manage a day session. Tea and coffee will be available. £2.00 per session to cover cost of refreshments and heating.

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

## Art and Craft Space

The Art and Craft Space will resume on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September with weekly sessions on **Thursdays from 2pm – 4pm** at Little Birch Village Hall. Sessions will be self-directed: drawing, painting, creative writing, knitting, quilting or any other crafts which people are interested in. Bring your own materials and join the group to have a chat and do some craft work. All are welcome – contact Margaret for further details (01981-540374) or just turn up.



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## John Bryant BEM

Regular readers of this newsletter will know that for many years John was the leader of the production and distribution team. He contributed most of the local news and submitted most of the church and gardening club news. Newcomers to the area usually received a welcoming visit from John and their first copy of the newsletter.

Unfortunately John fell and broke his hip a few weeks ago. After treatment at Hereford and Ross hospitals he now lives at Holmer Manor care home. He has settled in well and is making progress towards getting mobile again. He is enjoying cricket, tennis and football on TV, visits by Betty and his friends and appreciates the many good wishes he has received.

John would welcome more visits from his many friends (but try to avoid lunchtimes). The care home is situated next to Holmer church on the A49 just north of Hereford.

Betty would like to thank everyone who have offered and provided help now that she is living on her own. She has limited mobility so appreciates help especially with transport for visits to see John and her older sister who lives in another care home in Hereford.

**A Day of Gardens, Delicious Lunch and Poetry:**

This September, St Michael's Hospice has hand-picked three of Herefordshire's most exquisite gardens to explore in one memorable day.

You'll begin by visiting The Laskett Gardens in Much Birch, renowned for its loving creation overseen by Sir Roy Strong and his late wife Julia.

Sir Roy will then join you at Grendon Court near Upton Bishop where owner Kate Edwards will be waiting to greet you.

You'll soon be seated and ready to savour a gourmet delight in the form of a delicious home-cooked lunch. Relax afterwards while being moved by an alluring array of recited poetry, delivered by Sir Roy and Alex James.

The day's final port of call is Brockhampton Cottage near Bromyard. Marvel at the unspoilt views from this hilltop garden featuring a five-acre flower meadow and pear orchard.

Round off your trip with tea and cake before setting off home.

For more information, and to book your place at A Day of Gardens, Delicious Lunch and Poetry on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, visit [www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/events](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/events)

**Lottery:**

Each Friday, St Michael's Hospice gives away £1,000, plus a stash of other cash prizes, in its Lottery draw.

This summer, the 1,000<sup>th</sup> weekly draw was held, meaning that since the Lottery began almost 20 years ago, countless Hospice supporters in our community have received a share of £1.5million in prize money, while at the same time helping fund the vital care provided by St Michael's to those in Herefordshire and beyond.

To find out how you can be in the hat for our weekly Lottery draws, visit [www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/get-involved/lottery](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/get-involved/lottery)

**Paul Broome**

Communications Officer, St Michael's Hospice  
Tel 01432 852 643 Fax 01432 851 022

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**BRIDGE LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS.** Interested in learning bridge? Steve Lawrence, an experienced bridge teacher, will be running a course of 2 terms of ten 2 hour lessons costing £50 per term. The lessons will be held on either Thursdays or Fridays starting at the end of September in Alton Street, Ross-on-Wye. For further information, contact Steve on 01989 218432 or email [sjlawrence009@gmail.com](mailto:sjlawrence009@gmail.com). More info can be found on the Ross Bridge Club website [www.rossonwyebidgeclub.org.uk](http://www.rossonwyebidgeclub.org.uk).

Enjoy playing bridge within a year!



**Table Top Sale**

**Saturday 28th September**

**10:00 - 12:30 pm**

**Much Birch Community Hall**

**Tables £5 pre-booked, £6 on the day subject to availability**

**Refreshments available**

**Call 01981 540980 to book a table**

**Proceeds for hall kitchen development**

**Join us at the**

# Community Café

**@ Much Birch Community Hall**

**Saturday 7 September, 10:00 - 12:30**

During the café in September we will have a visit from the **St Michael's Hospice Support Vehicle**, which is visiting all corners of the county with information about all the various services offered by the hospice.



**The rest of the year...**

**12 October 9 November 14 December**

For more information or if you are in need of transport contact Lydia on 01981 540323 or [socialfabric@hotmail.com](mailto:socialfabric@hotmail.com)



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**ART & CRAFTS CLUB**

Although the nights are drawing in, it's no reason to hibernate! Instead start a new hobby or revive an old one by coming along to ART & CRAFTS CLUB for a couple of hours a week at LBVH.

This group, originally named ARTSPACE, started as an art group led and tutored by Maz has now evolved into ART & CRAFT CLUB. Alongside the painting it now includes knitting, crochet and creative writing.

We have beginners as well as seasoned and talented members who bring their own materials and enjoy their time with like-minded people. 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

ART & CRAFTS CLUB starts on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2-4pm at Little Birch Village Hall

For further information contact:  
Val 01981 540424 / mob: 07854 244656 or  
Maz 01981 541048

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*Birth to 4 years*



For more information please contact:  
Karen 07817716137 or Lucy lcook8910@gmail.com

**SUCCESS FOR LOCAL BOY**

Congratulations go to Joshua Williams, Quarry Bank, Parish Lane, Kingsthorne.

He has just graduated from Reading University, receiving a "First with Honours" for Business and Management. He has now taken up a place at Wollongong University, Australia for two years to do his Masters Degree.

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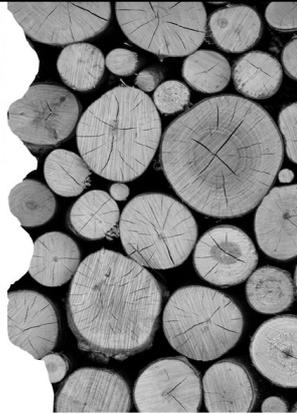
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## TEA ON THE TRAIL

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### Refreshments for walkers

Enjoy a break for a cup of tea or coffee



**Donations** to cover costs and for much needed  
renovation work at St Mary's Church.  
Thank you



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## FLU VACCINATION CLINICS 2019

**STAY WELL  
THIS WINTER**

Much Birch Surgery will be holding their annual flu vaccination clinics on the

**5th & 19th October 2019, 8.30-11.00 at Much Birch Community Hall.**

Due to the number of patients who attend the clinics and the limited parking facilities available, car sharing where possible, would be advisable.

As per previous years, patients will need to pick up their invitations letters from Reception at the Surgery, before attending either of the clinics.

The invitation letters will be available w/c 16th September and will give details of which of the above clinics patients may attend.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to restrictions on vaccine deliveries only invited patients will be eligible to have their flu vaccine at the clinics and any other patients will be able to book into the surgery to have their vaccine **AFTER** the 21st October 2019, subject to eligibility.

Patients who are eligible for the flu vaccine but are unable to attend either of the flu clinic dates will be able to book for their vaccines at the surgery after the 21st October.

### **Much Birch Church**

finds itself in the position this year that expenditure will probably outstrip its income so the PCC will be relying upon the small Fundraising Committee to raise the funds to meet the expenses. As it is just a small committee we would like to increase our numbers and would welcome any person who would be willing to join us. That person would not have to be a regular Churchgoer but should be willing to work with us at meetings and at Fundraising events. If you are interested please contact Sylvia on 01981 540980.

### **Our project is almost complete**

The repair and refurbishment of the East Stained Glass Window in Much Birch Church is almost complete. At the time of going to press Ark Stained Glass and Leaded Lights Ltd. are hoping to reinstall the windows during the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019. A rededication of the window will take place at the Harvest Festival Service on 13<sup>th</sup> October, details of which will be available next month. Meanwhile we would like to thank the children of Much Birch Primary School who put together some lovely and colourful temporary windows, which have much enhanced the Chancel of the Church during the waiting time for repairs. We would also like to thank the Historic Churches Trust, AllChurches Trust Ltd. and the many individuals who have generously contributed to the fund either through direct donations or by supporting the fundraising events which has enabled us to undertake this essential work.

Sylvia Jones on behalf of the Fundraising Committee



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## KINGS THORNE & LITTLE BIRCH GARDENING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Well Autumn will soon be on the way with hopefully a beautiful array of colours – it should be because we have had some scorching weather which usually rewards us with the red, yellows and oranges of that season. Sad to see Summer on her way out but it's out with the note books to remind us what did well in the heat and the torrential rain – perhaps we won't mention rain as I think we have had enough now!

The garden visit to Veddw Garden went well, so I am told. I hope everyone who went enjoyed its quirky design and construction. Sorry to have missed it but Iceland called, the country that is, and if you ever get the chance to go, then go. The scenery is awesome, really breath taking.

I am sure you are all fully prepared for the **Village Show on 7<sup>th</sup> September** and we are expecting the photograph section to be bursting with exhibits! The schedule was published on the back of the July/August issue of the Newsletter, but any problems please contact Lesley Chapman, show secretary -541370.

**On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September** we are hoping to have some open gardens for you to see – I think a small amount of arm twisting will be taking place at the Summer Show so details of this planned event will be announced then. We are hoping for it to culminate in a little social get together in the hall with a cream tea and a bring and buy plant and produce sale. It will be a good time to get together and chat about our successes and failure of the gardening year so far .

**On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October** we have Jo Weightman coming to talk to us on Fungi in Herefordshire – a foray into all things Fungi. Jo is an extremely knowledgeable person with regards to fungi and has written on the subject. Just the thing for a chilly October evening.

Wishing you all lots of luck for the Summer Show – it's still not too late to bake that cake or make a pot of jam! Don't forget the flower arranging tips from Sandra back in June.

*Happy Gardening,  
Jenny Baldwin*



**Hereford Big Band, a full size swing Band of 22 musicians will be in concert playing a wide repertoire from the 20's 30's, 40's and beyond**

**Saturday 21st September 2019**

**Much Birch Church**

**7.30 pm (doors open 7.00 pm)**

*Tea and coffee will be served in the Community Hall afterwards*

**Tickets £9.00 (£5 under 16s)**

Tickets available from Bryony (01981 540097)  
or Sylvia (01981 540980)

Proceeds for Much Birch Community Hall kitchen upgrade

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**Have you made your will yet?**

You might have put it off as something that you can do tomorrow but never got round to. Here is your chance to put that right.

Every other year The Royal National College for the Blind holds a will-writing fortnight. This year it will take place with the generous support of both Harrison Clark Rickerby Solicitors and Mortimers Solicitors. You can make a single will or, for a couple, mirror wills.

The solicitors are kindly contributing their time by waiving their will-writing fee, giving you the opportunity to donate to the College. The suggested donation is £100 for a single will and £175 for straightforward mirror wills. If your will is more complicated, additional charges may apply.

The dates are from the 7<sup>th</sup> October to the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Please contact the solicitors directly to register your interest and arrange an appointment.

Harrison Clark Rickerby – Lucy Willmett 01432 349 670  
[lwillmett@hrcrlaw.com](mailto:lwillmett@hrcrlaw.com)

Mortimers Solicitors – Leanne Spencer 01432 355 572  
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**Alice Spivey**

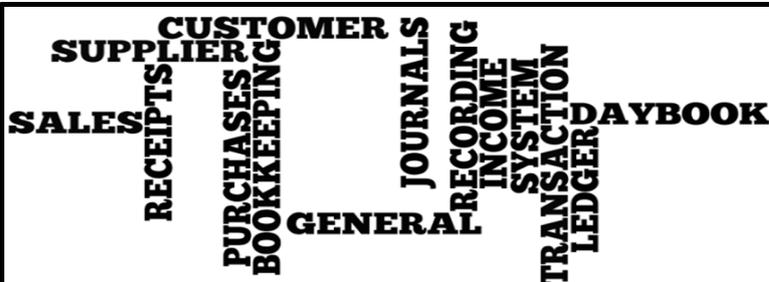
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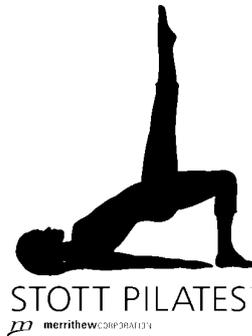
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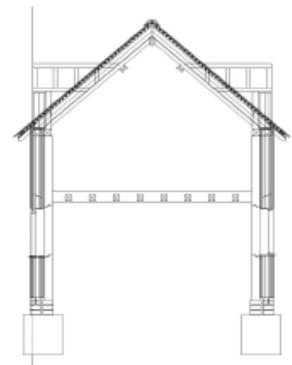
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## Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

Results of the 100 club draw which took place July and August 2019 in the Community Hall are as follows:

14<sup>th</sup> July

1 <sup>st</sup> prize – No.16	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize - No.75	3 <sup>rd</sup> prize – No.103
Miss J. Dawson	Mrs. N. Jones	Mrs. M. Hines
c/o Kivernoll	Much Birch	Much Birch

11<sup>th</sup> August

1 <sup>st</sup> prize - No. 65	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize –No. 76	3 <sup>rd</sup> prize – No. 42
Mrs. W. Potts	Mrs. M. Baldwin	Miss. J. Hardy
Monmouth	Much Birch	Camomile Green

The next draw will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the Community Hall at 10.30am

## St. Mary's Church Fete.

Many thanks once again to John and Kate Dillon for hosting the garden fete in support of the church and for all the hard work that they did. This year was a tremendous success, raising £1750, so thank you to everybody who helped, made donations and supported this event which is our main fund raiser towards the upkeep of the church.

Jules Hudson from the television programme Escape to the country, kindly gave up his time and brought his family along, he drew the raffle at the end and spent the afternoon chatting to people and wandering around the various stalls, he even won a coconut.

John and Betty Bryant were sadly missing from this year's event. John has now settled into his new home at Holmer Manor Nursing Home, whilst Betty is still at Bramleys. Betty manages to visit John several times a week with the help of friends and we wish them both well.

\*\*\*\*\*

*We would like to thank everybody who came and supported us at our fete on July 7th. We had a wonderful afternoon, England won their football match and the children were able to see a new born calf wobble to it's feet at the end. The calf has since been named Mary Fete. Thank you to all our helpers who did a great job but particularly to Kate and John Dillon who hosted the event and put in so much hard work to make it such a success.*

*We made £1300 which is a great result.*

*Also, a belated thank you to everybody who supported our Lent lunch and to everybody who helped provide a lovely meal. We raised £246 which has been sent to the Sightsavers charity.*

*John and Kate Dillon*



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*Refreshments including hot dogs available from 7pm*

*Coming up in the rest of the season...*

**Friday 18 October, 7.30 - THE FAVOURITE** 15  
**Thursday 24 October, 7.30 - DIEGO MARADONA** 12A  
**Thursday 21 November, 7.30 - EATEN BY LIONS** 12A  
**Thursday 12 December, 7.30 - ROCKETMAN** 15

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*For further information about films and screenings visit [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk) (online booking available!)*

## Parish Walk

**Sunday 8 September** meeting at **9am** at Little Birch Village Hall - walking down through the woods to Aconbury village. We can look into Aconbury Church, courtesy of the Duchy and the Lilwalls. Return over the fields and up through the woods to the hall for refreshments.

A moderate walk - with steep descents and ascents and a number of stiles - about **4 miles**.

Contact - Angela Middleton, Volunteer Footpath Officer for Little Birch  
 01981 540377

### 'Footprints'

Have a look at the new way into Aconbury Wood at the Ten Acre Wood/Priorystone end - thanks to Ed Clerk of the Duchy for doing this - it has made the wood more accessible for all of us.

The previous Parish Walk was enjoyed by nine of us who walked from the hall down along the 'Green Drive', through the Holme Lacy Estate and along the river to have coffee and late cooked breakfasts at Luckshall Cafe. It was wonderful to see such an enthusiastic group of people who hadn't all known each before and all joined together in the expedition. A lovely sunny day and good company!

Advance notice - **Tuesday 8 October at 10.15am** LBVH a 'Fungus Foray' in Aconbury Woods with Jo Weightman from Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group.

## Table Tennis at Little Birch Village Hall



Following on from the first two very successful table tennis sessions at Little Birch Village Hall, we have decided to buy a brand new table making it three tables in all so that everyone can have plenty of table time. These sessions have proven to be extremely sociable events with everyone having great fun and everyone will be made welcome. Those who have attended previously, please note the change of start time from 7:30pm to 7:00pm.

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

## THE MASONS AT MERRIVALE

My last article was written for the January newsletter, but due to lack of space, could not be included. In hindsight it's a relief to assign 2018 to history. A hard year for the farm due to the drought in the summer of 2018 meant we used up a lot of our winter fodder feeding the cows in the 2018 summer. We then had to purchase tons of hay and silage to make up this shortfall to take us through to spring 2019 when the cows went out to grass.

This year saw a fairly early spring thankfully, so the cows were out grazing in March and all youngstock were out in April. Due to rain at critical times, the grazing grass has never stopped growing – so different to last year.

We made our first silage cut in April which is not something we have ever done here before, it normally takes place in early May. This was partly due to the earlier spring but also the practice now of taking cuts of grass when it is younger and of higher quality. This means we will take at least four cuts per season, when once three was thought the norm. The higher quality means that the cows produce more milk from it, which being an Organic farm producing as much milk from grass as possible is paramount.

The second silage cut was taken in early June and the third cut in mid July with grass now growing well for another cut in September. We did slip in the wholecrop silage making in early July. This was a crop of peas and barley harvested while still green and soft. This makes a feed that is high in starch which compliments the high protein grass and clover silage.

We do not make any hay at Merrivale but felt for the other local farmers as in June it did look as if the constant rain was going to make it very difficult. Then – wow – two weeks of glorious sun and heat to let them make beautiful hay. We now just hope that the same will happen for the corn and straw harvest, so that the rain will stop and ten days to two weeks of good weather means combining and baling can be completed.

Our Tuberculosis situation this year is also better as we have had two clear tests so far and so our next test isn't due until July 2020. This is a huge relief as we were previously tested every 6 months, something that is stressful for both cattle and farmers.

Our breeding has changed slightly with the cows as our numbers have now reached 180 milkers and we no longer need so many heifer replacements. This means we are only breeding out of our best cows to dairy. We have also used sexed female semen as much as possible which reduces the number of Holstein bull calves produced. Beef bulls are then used on the remainder of the cows and the subsequent calves born are of a much higher value to rearers.

Another significant change we are in the process of making is becoming an antibiotic free herd. As an organic herd our use of antibiotics is already restricted but we can use a capped amount with longer milk and meat withdrawal periods. To become a Produced Without Antibiotics (PWAB) herd, we will not be able to use antibiotics at all. The Co-operative that we supply already have a number of herds producing milk without antibiotics and after a couple of years trialling different treatments, we now feel ready to make the move and have begun our 12 month conversion period.

Let's hope for a continuation of the very suitable weather we have had so far this year. On another note, I have notice this has been the year of the butterfly – I wonder if they have that in the Chinese calendar!

## **THE OPENING AND DEDICATION OF MUCH BIRCH COMMUNITY HALL EXTENSION AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE HALL'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

An enjoyable and successful event was held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019 when the Right Reverend Richard Frith, Bishop of Hereford Opened and Dedicated the new Hall Extension. The occasion also recognised the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the original Hall opening.

Over 100 people attended the event. Special guests included Rev Malcolm Acheson, Rev. John Pitchford, and Geoff Perry, from the original project team and Leslie Phillips the original Building Foreman. They were joined by representatives from the National Lottery Community Fund (The Big Lottery), Welcome To Our Future, Much Birch Parish Council and K.G.D. Industrial Services who all contributed generously to the fundraising.

Everyone was greeted with a welcome drink before they moved into the Hall for the ceremony. Before the speeches began they were entertained by music from the Much Birch Jazz Quartet (set up for the special occasion) and had the opportunity to view the new building and the memorabilia on display.

The proceedings were opened by a welcoming speech by the President of the Management Committee Prebendary Mark Johnson, which was followed by 'How did we get Here' speech by the Chairman and Project Manager John Jones. Their words were summed up in the article included in the programme written by John and is attached at the end of this report.

After the Opening and Dedication by The Bishop of Hereford, a song written especially for the occasion was sung by a 'mystery choir' written by and under the direction of Prebendary Kay Garlick. Before a splendid Buffet lunch was served, presentations of thanks were made to Glen Sims, Andrew Baker and Ken Davies by John Jones, following which Champagne and Flowers were presented to John and Sylvia Jones on behalf of the Management Committee.

### **1979 – 2019 'How did we get here'**

In 1972 plans were initiated by Much Birch Parochial Church Council to build a new hall for the benefit of Much Birch Church, for Church Educational purposes and for general use by the whole community. As a result Much Birch Community Centre was eventually opened on 13th May 1979. Funds were raised then by many local and national benefactors. It is this event that we are also celebrating today on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In recent years, the philosophy of the Management Committee has been to improve the Hall to meet modern day requirements. It has become the central hub for Much Birch and surrounding villages. The space brings people together, provides important facilities for a rural population, giving people of all ages the opportunity to meet and to socialise and the Hall will continue to play a role by doing so, in reducing isolation and loneliness in this rural area, for example, setting up the new Community Cafe. Around 400 people currently use the Hall on a regular weekly or monthly basis, which increases with such events as Flicks in the Sticks, the Village Market, the Café, Concerts and other social and fundraising events. The Hall is run exclusively by unpaid volunteers.

Following consultation with local users and other people, the committee identified the need to upgrade and extend the facilities, for use in the present day and for the future. Before work began on the latest extension we enlarged the car park, renewed the pavement to the frontage of the premises, constructed ramps to the rear of the building, upgraded the heating system, built the Arthur Harris Room/Community Resource Centre, installed solar panels and double glazing, upgraded the roof insulation and replaced the oil tank. We also purchased removable staging for appropriate events.

The new extension opening today provides an enlarged lobby with a canopy over the front entrance, two extra meeting/activity rooms, reconfiguration and installation of new toilets, with separate toilet for disabled persons, an area for nappy changing, a new cleaners/storage room, and a new corridor giving access to the rear of the building and the upper floor. In the near future the kitchen will be extended and refurbished, and raising funds for this part of the project is in progress.

Grateful thanks go to many people for their support of this project. This includes our own Management Committee for their commitment and support over the years, to our fundraiser who joined us latterly with her expertise in completing funding applications, and to the local businessman who organised and funded the foundation groundwork and provided the front porch canopy and handrail free of charge. Our thanks must include all the organisations and individuals who made contributions, and to all those members of the community who helped to raise money by supporting fundraising events. Last of all we are indebted to 'The National Lottery Community Fund' and 'Welcome To Our Future' for their major contributions which has enabled us to complete the project.

Our special thanks must go to Andrew Baker, the Architect and to Glen Sims, our Building Contractor for his expertise, skill and workmanship, including his ability to ensure that the Hall has remained open for users at all times.

This celebration will also pay tribute to the community and volunteers who have supported the Hall over the 40 years and provides an opportunity to thank the community particularly for their help and perseverance during the building phases and we welcome them all to view the new facilities today.

John H.C.Jones  
Chairman

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15th July 2019

**PARISH MEETING** - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall.  
The Parish Council discussed representations for several local planning applications which would be communicated to the Planning Authority. There was some discussion of footpaths in the parish and the contact details for the Footpath Officer for Much Birch are as follows: Steve Owen at e mail: [herefordsteve@aol.com](mailto:herefordsteve@aol.com)

The Meeting also heard a further update on the Neighbourhood Plan which is now at the stage of the Regulation 14 draft within the process. Future Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings are coming up and all are welcome to attend.

Please 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**

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

A reminder that the dates for the remaining **2019 Parish Council Meetings** are as follows: September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5. There is no Parish Council Meeting in August.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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

A reminder that **Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-**

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail [thecooks@wynet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wynet.co.uk) Tel. 01981 540703

Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail [turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com](mailto:turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com) and Tel. 01981 540090

Cllr Andrew Crum Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail [a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com)  
Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX [roisinburge@hotmail.com](mailto:roisinburge@hotmail.com) Tel. 01981 540724

Cllr David Baldwin The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS [baldwin79@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

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

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Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

Cllr Peter Rees	Chair	01981 541356	<a href="mailto:panddrees@gmail.com">panddrees@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Janet Gwinnett	Vice Chair	01981 540651	<a href="mailto:janetgwinnett@hotmail.com">janetgwinnett@hotmail.com</a>
Cllr Kate Dillon		01981 540364	<a href="mailto:kate@castlenibole.com">kate@castlenibole.com</a>
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Angela Middleton	Volunteer Footpath Officer	01981 540377	<a href="mailto:ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk">ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Sophie Glover	Clerk	01432 617306	<a href="mailto:lbpcclerk@gmail.com">lbpcclerk@gmail.com</a>

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

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