



Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

A newsletter for the villages of King's Thorn, Little Birch, Much Birch & Aconbury.

February 2018. First published 1977..

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Proceeds for repairs to Much Birch Church stained glass window

Diary Dates

January 2018

25th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH 7.30pm

26th and 27th Panto at LBVH

31st Gardening Club LBVH

February 2018

1st Coffee Morning LBVH

4th Parish Walk LBVH 1030am

5th Historical Society Longtown

13th Whist Drive LBVH

15th Pancake Evening LBVH

17th Book Exchange Methodist Chapel

20th WI MBCH

23rd Village Market MBCH

28th Gardening Club LBVH

March 2018

2nd Fashion Show MBCH

18th Big Spring Walk Fownhope

23rd Village Market MBCH

28th Gardening Club AGM LBVH

Church Services February 2018



Sunday 4th Feb. LBirch 11am CW Communion
2nd Sun before Lent

Sunday 11th Feb. MBirch 0915am Family Communion
Sun before Lent LBirch 11am Morning Worship

Wed 14th Feb MBirch 1030am Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 18th Feb. MBirch 0915am CW Communion
LBirch 11am BCP Communion

Sunday 25th Feb. MBirch 0915am Morning Worship
Llandinabo 0915am BCP Communion
Llanwarne 11am CW Communion

The Monastery of Poor Clares at 11am every Sunday.
Holy Communion at Much Birch every Thursday at 9.30am.

Please send copy for the March Newsletter to
editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written
contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow,
Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.

—by 18th February please.



Local News for January 18.

Sadly we have to record the death of Shirley Gemmell, lately of Much Birch, Kings Thorne and Peterstow. She was 94 years of age

Her service of Thanksgiving was held on 17th January conducted by the Rev. Mark Johnson who gave the tribute from which these notes are gratefully acknowledged.

We are gathered here today to say farewell to Shirley who moved away from Kent to Herefordshire when she married Edwin in 1968

Shirley arrived in this world on 8th May 1923, to Elizabeth and William Holden Gann who lived at Stone Lodge, near to the coal yard.

She attended the local Village primary school and completed her formal education at Ashford High School for girls where she gained her School Certificate, with credits in Latin and Art. We know not whether she ever used the Latin but she certainly put her love of art to good use. She then qualified as a teacher and went on to teach the arts and crafts in Ashford and Cranbrook schools in Kent and also some other establishments in London.

After her marriage to Edwin in Pluckley they moved to his home in Marden, Hereford. She continued to use her teaching abilities to encourage the help many people improve their interest in the arts and crafts.

Later they both moved to Much Birch where they bought Birch Lodge and set up a successful Guest House which they ran from 1974 to 1982. Whilst there Shirley refurbished the stone bothy in the garden turning it into a studio and held classes and exhibitions such as needlework, silk painting, quilting, pottery and watercolour painting to name but a few. She was an extremely talented lady and was a founder member of the Hereford '73 Embroidery Group which later became the Hereford Textile Craft Group.

Shirley was also very keen on her Churches, St Nicholas and Pluckley and St Mary & St Thomas as Becket in Much Birch. Both churches were recipients of her skills in gold leaf gilding during various restorations: the gilding of the lettering on the Rood Screen in St Nicholas' and the gilding of the weather vane on St Mary & St Thomas a Becket churches. It was at Much Birch that she was involved in the design of the stained glass windows of St Thomas a Becket at the foot of the tower.

When Edwin and Shirley retired they built a bungalow, Thornbury, at Kings Thorn with a large garden which allowed her to pursue her other passion – gardening. They had given up Birch Lodge because they felt the garden was getting too big. I'm not quite sure how they worked that out, seeing the size of the new garden!

As the years marched on they downsized again to another bungalow in Peterstow this time with a much smaller garden. Sadly this is where Edwin, her soul mate, dies in 2003. Shirley felt it impossible to stay in Peterstow and settled into a warden assisted bungalow in Brook Farm Court in Belmont, Hereford.

It was while Shirley was in Brook Farm that I got to know her. She was a regular at Much Birch Church on a Sunday and on a

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.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

Our January meeting featured a talk by Joy Button who is involved in the judging of home produce, baking and preserves at local events and how the marks are allocated and the winners awarded. A good evening was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be on 20th February and will be a very interesting talk from Andrew Nixon of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust covering the extensive work being undertaken by the Trust in Herefordshire.

Please contact Sallie on 01432 340069 for further details.

Thursday. Indeed, her faith was one of those characteristics that you thought about when Shirley's name was mentioned – it was not faith that was pushy, but it was a personal one rooted in the bible and in the Eucharist and lived out in good deeds and neighbour outreach. Anyway who was ill, needed shopping could rely on Shirley – though as her sight deteriorated sometimes you did feel as though you were taking your life in your hand (or rather hers) when she drove!

Shirley was, I think one of those characters for which the modern world does not have time. She would do things carefully, methodically, slowly in order not just to get it right but to get it to be the best that she could. It did not matter if it was the stitching of a wonderful piece of embroidery, the planting of flowers, the way she dressed – she always made an effort to be correct.

We interred Edwin's ashes in the garden of remembrance at Much Birch a few years after his death, we had Elgar and favourite hymns and we agreed her ashes, when the time came, would go with his and they would be together once more.

We restricted walking ability and unable to drive she decided in 2013 to move to Ross Court Residential Home in Ross on Wye where she was extremely well cared for by Mrs Janet Anty and her staff.

Shirley had a very full and active life and each of you will have your own special reasons for remembering her

We send to her niece Rosemary and her husband, Bruce and the family our sincere condolences.

A brief summary of the TWIG AND BUD walk and talk - Wednesday 10th January

On a brilliantly sunny morning Martin Hales, Tree Warden for Fownhope, led 12 of us on a winter tree identification trail down to Athelstan's Wood.

We learnt three different ways that buds and branches formed; alternating buds along the twig as in oak, growing opposite as in elder and in a spiral as in willow. We observed lenticels scattered over the bark, these are pores where the tree breathes in oxygen.

Along the Parish Boundary, beyond Green Farm, Martin suggested that the old pollarded oaks were around 500 years old. The cut wood was used as firewood and fence stakes.

Along the way we saw a number of young elm trees. The trees are far apart now so the Dutch Elm disease is not spreading as before.

In total we identified 18 different trees!

We rounded off with refreshments at the village hall - many thanks to all who came, helped and to Martin Hales for his expert knowledge.

Angela Middleton

PARISH WALK

**Sunday 4 February,
meeting at Little Birch village hall at 10 am.**

Join in on a 4.96 mile walk, which will take approximately 2.5 hours. The walk will be on footpaths, tracks and lanes within and outside the Little Birch parish.

All welcome!

Any queries contact:

Angela Middleton, voluntary footpath officer.

01981 540377

Linedance classes in MBCH on Wednesday evenings. 7.30pm-9.30pm...£4.00 Not suitable for absolute beginners Contact Jean Harris on 07506718907 for further details



Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The January draw took place on 14th January 2017 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am and the results were as follows:

1st prize – 53

Miss J. Dawson

Kivernoll

2nd prize - 36

Mrs. C. Miller

Little Birch

The next draw will take place on 11th February 2018 in Much Birch Community Hall.

Little Birch Gardening Club



Little Birch and Kings Thorn gardening club are hosting a talk given by Terry Walton, the Radio 2 gardener. Terry appears on the Jeremy Vine show live from his allotment in the Rhonda every Friday afternoon.

Wednesday 31st January

Little Birch village hall at 7.30pm

Non members welcome for a fee of £4.00

Terry is an enthusiastic entertainer with a wealth of knowledge. This should be a good evening out for all

On Wed. 28th Feb, Mrs Lesley Chapman will 'Entertain us with an evening of Music, poetry and prose

On March 28th The AGM will be held.

Our meeting will take the usual format but if any member would like to provide an 'entertainment' for 30 mins. please let the committee know'

A short slide show, quiz or perhaps some shared experiences will be welcomed.

All meetings take place on the last Wed of each month at 7.30pm in Little Birch Village Hall.

John Bryant 01981 540316

Much Birch Village Markets

The dates for the 2017 are as follows:

February 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th, May 25th, June 22nd, July 27th, August –no market, September 28th, October 26th, November 23rd, December 14th.

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Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for February 2018

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 1st February 10:30am - 12:30pm** at **Little Birch Village Hall**.

Please come 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 13th February** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just £2.00.

LBVH Annual Pancake Evening

Join us at Little Birch Village Hall on **Thursday 15th February** at **7:30pm** for a selection of delicious homemade pancakes with a variety of fillings, savoury and sweet!

£2.50 for two and 50p for each additional one you can manage! We look forward to seeing you there.

Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next Book Exchange will be on the morning of **Saturday 17th February** at the former Methodist Chapel **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.

Poppy Scrivens, Granddaughter of Derek & Margaret Scrivens recently helped out at the Book Exchange and wrote a report of her experience for a school project:

Until a few years ago a mobile library used to visit Little Birch Village every month.

The County Council stopped it coming, so a lady, Mrs. Morely, started a book exchange. First of all she put an advert in a newsletter asking people to donate any books that they did not want. She got hundreds. Lots of shelves have been put up in a building and the books have been put on them, fiction in one part and non-fiction in another part, with the authors in alphabetical order. There is a children's part and also some DVDs.

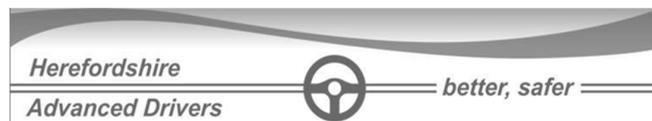
There is a book exchange once each month on a Saturday morning and I was able to help at one of them.

When someone borrows a book, the date and their name, and the title of the book is written down in a book. The date of the next book exchange is stamped on a piece of paper inside the cover.

When a book was brought back I had to find where it was in the register and cross it off. The book then had to be put back on the shelf in the right place.

The people who come pay a small donation which helps with the cost of doing the book exchange. Free tea, coffee, cake and biscuits are on a table for the people to have while they sit down and talk to each other. Some people stay a long time eating drinking and talking before they choose a book. I talked to some of the people and they were really friendly and they like coming to the book exchange.

At the end of the morning, when the people had gone, I helped to tidy up.



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www.advanced-drivers.org.uk



Ross Library Development Group (RLDG): There will be no Talks in Ross Library until the end of April 2018 as major refurbishments are being made there to accommodate the Children's Services.

ROSS CIVIC SOCIETY: All are welcome to attend the illustrated Talk on Wednesday 14th February, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the Larruperz Centre, Ross. The Speaker will be DAVID WHITEHEAD and the topic 'The Building of Eastnor Castle 1812 – 1824'. Entry for visitors £5.00 p.p. Subscriptions: Individual £15.00, Joint £25.00.

ROSS ARTS APPRECIATION SOCIETY (RAAS): All are welcome to attend an Afternoon Talk on Saturday 3rd February 2018 by the RAAS President, Prof. Allen Fisher, on **VERMEER AND OTHER DUTCH PAINTERS**, 2.00 at Bridstow Village Hall. This will be followed by a delicious NEW YEARS TEA then a Talk by Heather Hurley on the **GREEN LANES OF HEREFORDSHIRE**. We will finish at 5.30 p.m. Cost: £7.50 p.p. but booking beforehand is required. Please ring 01989 562424 or 720539 to arrange this.

ROSS SCIENCE SOCIETY: The February Meeting will be held on the second Wednesday, 14th February 2018 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. The topic will be the 'Physics behind the Large Hadron Collider' and the Speaker will be Prof. David Evans of the University of Birmingham. All are welcome. Entry £4 for visitors, £16.00 annual subscription. Students free. There is additional parking opposite the Hotel. For details see the website: www.rosssciencesociety.org.uk or ring the Secretary on 01989 720539



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The Big Spring Walk 2018

Sunday 18th March

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From 9am onwards

Take one of the most beautiful times of the year, and the picturesque backdrop of the undulating Herefordshire countryside. Combine the two and you have the St Michael's Hospice Big Spring Walk.

Whether you're looking for a challenging woodland walk or a more leisurely stroll beside the River Wye, there is a walk for you, your friends and family, and maybe even your dog.

Choose between 2K, 5K, 11K and 16K routes starting and finishing at Fownhope Recreation Ground.

All routes will be fully signposted, and our team of marshals will be positioned along the path ready to help you on your way.

Dogs on leads welcome for the 5K, 11K and 16K walks only.

For further information or to register, please call the Events Team on 01432 851 000 or go to our website:
<http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/big-spring-walk/>

LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY: TWO CASTLES UPDATE

Martin Cook and Neil Kidd will be giving an update on the society's excavations at Pont Hendre and Longtown castles on **Monday 5 February at 7.30-pm in Longtown Village Hall.**

Membership costs just **£5** for the rest of the season until July. Guests are welcome at **£3** per meeting. Contact jeremy.milln@gmail.com for more information.



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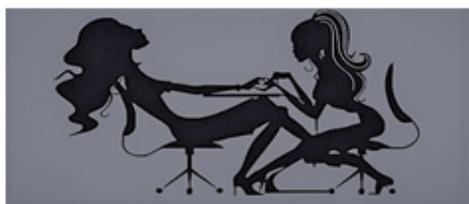
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Little Birch & Aconbury

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultation Draft

The Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was printed in early January and was delivered to all Aconbury and Little Birch households and businesses in the area.

This is an important document for all residents, affecting planning rules for Aconbury and Little Birch as far as 2031. If you have not received a copy please contact Sophie Glover, clerk to LB&A NDP Steering Group. *See below for details.*

The draft has been put together by a steering group, meeting regularly for the past 18 months and our consultant Dr David Nicholson. This Plan is a 'Vision for the Future' of both Aconbury and Little Birch - showing the planning policies for sustainable development. There are several policies on housing. These detail how new proposals must show how they protect the existing rural environment. Other policies cover such topics as Community Facilities, Renewable Energy and Broadband.

Remember, this is your plan.

In your copy of the Draft Plan is a **Comments Form**, where you will be able to submit your views. **Closing date for comments is 5pm Monday, 19 February 2018.**

Comments Forms should be delivered to the Little Birch Village Hall letterbox, or they could be handed in at a **Drop-in Session**. This will be held **between 12.30pm and 2.30pm on Saturday 3 February at Little Birch Village Hall** and offers the opportunity to ask questions or discuss anything of concern.

A copy of the Draft Plan and its supporting documents and an online version of the Comments Form is also shown on Little Birch Parish Council's website. Copies of the Draft Plan can be viewed at The Castle Inn, Little Birch. Where possible, posters will also display information in the two parishes.

We'll take on board your comments and prepare another, revised version for submission to Herefordshire Council. The Plan then has to go through a number of checks – including an independent examination, before it is approved for adoption. The final stage is a referendum. A majority of those who vote need to agree with the Plan for it to be finalised and come into use.

Sophie Glover, Clerk to LB&A NDP Steering Group.
littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

For more information and to be kept up to date, or to have notification of future meetings about Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan check out the website – www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org.

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FLICKS
IN THE
STICKS

at Much Birch
Community Hall

Tuesday 13th February, 7.30pm - DUNKIRK 12A
Evacuation of Allied soldiers from Belgium, the British Empire, Canada, and France, who were cut off and surrounded by the German army from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk, France, between May 26- June 04, 1940, during Battle of France in World War II.

*Refreshments including hot dogs available from 7pm.
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Saturday 3rd March, 7.30pm - THE DEATH OF STALIN 15

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Little Birch Parish Council

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

CLlr Ben Roberts	Chairman	01981 540100	b3nroberts@gmail.com
CLlr Elaine Godding	Vice Chair	01981 540607	ecgodding@hotmail.co.uk
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	
Angela Middleton	Volunteer Foot Paths Officer	01981 540377	ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk
Sophie Glover	PC Clerk	01432 270499	littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Meeting agendas are posted on the Parish notice board at least three days in advance and are also on our web site
www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

Every one is welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, and if you have a particular question that you would like to put to him,
please can you let the clerk know before the meeting? Mrs Sophie Glover, Little Birch Parish Clerk, The Orchard, Ridgehill, Hereford
HR2 8AG

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

Much Birch Parish Council
Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright
Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire HR2 9NE
Tel. 01981 250860
Email: muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk

15th January 2018

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th January 2018 at the Much Birch Community Hall. Those present heard about local planning applications and plans for the future of the Carrot and Wine Stores with the reintroduction of the Post Office facility.

Future Dates for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings are: 1st February, 1st March, 29th March, 26th April and the 31st May 2018. Start time for all meetings is 7.30 in the Much Birch Community Hall. All are very welcome.

The Much Birch Parish Council Meeting dates for 2018 are as follows: February 8th, March 8th, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, no meeting in August, then September 6th, October 4th, November 8th and December 6th.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 8th February 2018 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 Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail tjsj@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

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

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



Get in touch

101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime
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West Mercia Police: www.westmercia.police.uk/specialconstables

Where we work; South Wye SNT is based at South Wye Police Station, Goodrich Grove, Newton Farm, Hereford, HR2 7DB, we work around the areas of Rural: Aconbury; Allensmore; Ballingham; Bolstone; Callow; Dewsall; Dinedor; Garway; Grafton; Harewood; Haywood; Hentland; Holme Lacy; Kenderchurch; Kentchurch; Kilpeck; Kingstone; Little Birch; Much Birch; Little Dewchurch; Llandinabo; Llanwarne; Lower Bullingham; Much Dewchurch; Orcop; Pencoyd; Pontrilas;

Your team

Sgt Emma Freer, PC Roger Bradley, PC Jim Phillips, PCSO Lowri Anderson, PCSO Adam Westlake, PCSO Christina Howard, PCSO Christopher Yarwood.

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