



THE *Birches*

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

First published 1977 **January 2020**

Treasure Island Treasure Island



The much looked forward to Little Birch pantomime, **Treasure Island**, will take place on **Friday 31st January at 7.30pm, and Saturday 1st February. 2:30pm & 7:30pm.** Tickets available from Margaret Scrivens 01981 540374 - Just £7 for adults and £5 for children.

Diary Dates

January 2020

- 2nd Coffee Morning LBVH 10.30am
- 8th LB Parish Council Meeting LBVH 7.30pm
- 9th MB Parish Council Meeting MBCH 7.30pm
- 9th Arts and Crafts LBVH 2pm
- 11th Community Café MBCH 10am
- 15th Table Tennis LBVH 7pm
- 16th Hereford Civic Society Kindle Centre 7.30pm
- 18th Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am
- 19th Parish Walk 1.30pm from LBVH
- 25th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH 2.30pm
- 29th Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm

31st to 1st Feb Panto "Treasure Island" LBVH

February 2020

- 11th Whist Drive LBVH 7.30pm
- 12th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH 7.30pm

Church Services January 2020



5th Epiphany

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Little Birch

12th Baptism of Christ

9.15 a.m. Family Communion at Much Birch.

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship at Little Birch

19th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion at Much Birch

11.00 a.m. Traditional Language Communion at Little Birch

26th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9.15 a.m. Morning Worship at Much Birch.

Join us at the

Community Café @ Much Birch Community Hall

2nd Saturday of the month

10:00 - 12:30

11 January 8 February 14 March

For more information or if you are in need of transport contact Lydia on 01981 540323 or socialfabric@hotmail.com



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

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for January 2020

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 2nd 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.

As in previous years, there will be no **Whist Drive** in January. Our next **Whist Drive** will be on **Tuesday 11th February** 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 18th January** 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 session will be on **Wednesday 15th January** 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 are once a month,

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 Peter Rees on 01981 541356

Art and Crafts Club

Art and Crafts Club sessions will resume weekly on **Thursday 9th January from 2pm – 4pm** at Little Birch Village Hall.

Sessions include drawing, painting, creative writing, knitting, crochet, quilting or any other crafts which people are interested in. We have beginners as well as seasoned and talented members. Bring your own materials and enjoy time with like-minded people. some craft work. 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. For further information contact: Val On 01981-540424 or mobile 07854-244656, or Maz on 01981-541048.

Drama Group Annual Pantomime

The much looked forward to Little Birch pantomime, **Treasure Island**, will take place on **Friday 31st January at 7.30pm, and Saturday 1st February. 2:30pm & 7:30pm**. Tickets available from Margaret Scrivens 01981 540374 - Just £7 for adults and £5 for children.

OTHER DIARY DATES

Little Birch Parish Council

Next meeting is **Wednesday 8th January at 7.30pm**.

Kingsthorpe and Little Birch Gardening Club

The next monthly meeting will take place on **29th January at 7.30pm**.



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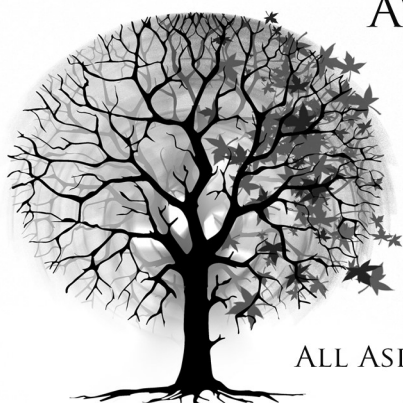
STEPHEN or TARA

Tel: 01432 870282



MUCH BIRCH CHURCH

During the Harvest Festival Service in October, the recently refurbished stained glass window was rededicated by Rev. Mark Johnson much to the delight of the congregation after several years of fund raising. The opportunity was taken to thank Tony O'Donnell, Amanda Cross and Jon Watson of Ark Stained Glass & Leaded Lights Ltd. for their excellent restoration work to that window and to 4 plain glass windows on the south side of the Church. Grateful thanks were also expressed to all the organisations and individuals in the Parish who contributed towards the sum required and to all those who supported the fund raising events that were held. I would like to thank particularly the Fundraising Committee who worked so hard and consistently with me to reach our objective and they are Eileen Jones, Dick and Gillian Brimacombe, Shirley Dyke, Lesley Gare and John Jones. Long may we continue to enjoy the beautiful window which is about 150 years old.
 Sylvia Jones, Churchwarden



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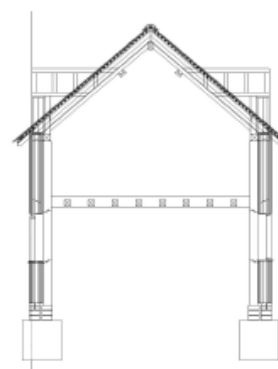
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ART & CRAFTS GROUP



Our weekly sessions for 2020 resume on 9th January 2-4pm within Little Birch Village Hall.

These sessions include drawing/painting, creative writing, knitting, crochet and any other craft which members are interested in.

We have beginners as well as talented members and share our ideas and skills within the group

We will occasionally have contributions from external speakers/artists

Come along and see what it is like. New people are made very welcome.

There is a small charge of £3 which covers and cost of the hall and light refreshment.

For further information please contact Val on 01981 540424 mob 07854 244656 Maz 01981 541048

Hereford Civic Society
Kindle Centre, by Hereford ASDA (free parking)
Thursday January 16th @ 7.30pm

Speaker: Alex Coppock, RIBA. Director of the award winning local architects, Communion.

Subject: Transforming spaces; inspiring places: fusing the best of the old and new to make buildings to enjoy and endure.

Alex will talk about Communion's work and how they strive to make Hereford(shire) a better place.

Non-members welcome: £3 donation.

Annual Membership £15 (10 meetings pa + quarterly magazine).

Dates for Much Birch Community Hall Village Markets for 2020

Easter Market - 27th March 2020

Summer Market - 26th June 2020

Autumn Market - 25th September 2020


Christmas Market - 11th December 2020

All 2.30pm – 4.30pm

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

Special Saturday Matinée Screening
SATURDAY 25 JANUARY, 2.30 pm - TOP HAT u
Followed by an Afternoon Tea Dance

This classic *Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers* film is screening as part of **BFI Musicals! The Greatest Show on Screen**, a UK-wide film season supported by National Lottery, BFI Film Audience Network and ICO. Come along to watch a great film and then enjoy afternoon tea with a bit of dancing - the best way to spend a January afternoon!



Booking preferred for catering purposes but there will be some availability on the door.

Coming up in February...
Thursday 12 February, 7.30 pm—JUDY 12A
starring Renée Zellweger.

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Tickets available in advance or on the door - 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 (online booking available!)

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LINE DANCING FOR BEGINNERS NOW BEING INTRODUCED AT MUCH BIRCH

I am a fully qualified linedance teacher with over 20 years teaching experience and 30 years dancing. Currently I run an established linedance class in Much Birch Community Hall - Wednesday evenings-7.30 - 9.30.

As from 6th November I am changing the structure of the class and would welcome any beginners to join us. The first hour will be dedicated to teaching Beginners linedance steps followed by easy dances'

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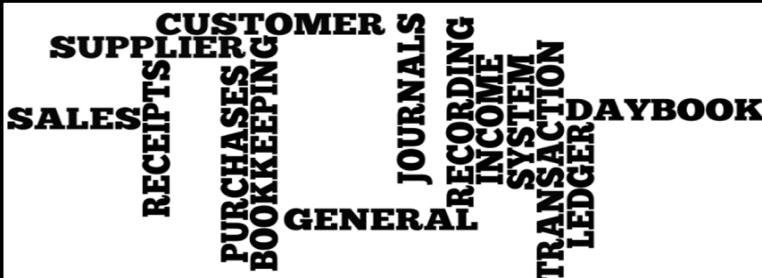
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Plant Fair

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With roots now firmly established, the St Michael's Plant Fair will return to the Hospice grounds on 1st and 2nd May 2020.

To help with this horticultural fundraiser, we need supporters to grow and donate plants so that we can continue providing the best possible care for people living with a terminal illness.

If you can help, please call Gaynor on 01432 852630 or email her at: gwarren@smhospicehereford.org and let her know you would like to grow half a dozen plants and make arrangements to deliver them ready for sale at the Fair.

We would also like to hear from supporters who would like to spare a few hours to sell plants at the Fair on 1st and 2nd May 2020.

Social groups

Social groups are meeting around Herefordshire allowing those who have been bereaved to spend time in each other's company.

The 'Friends' groups meet in five locations; Hereford, Bromyard, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross.

Each group offers an informal setting such as a cafe in which people can relax, share experiences and make new friends over coffee. The groups meet each month. For specific dates visit st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/hospice-care/friends or call Sarah on 01432 852627.

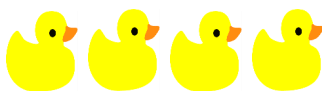
For those who want to be out in the fresh air, Striders & Strollers allows you to stretch your legs while spending a leisurely hour or two exploring Herefordshire's beautiful countryside.

Striders and Strollers meets monthly at Queenswood Country Park between Hereford and Leominster.

For more details, phone Shirley on 01432 852650.



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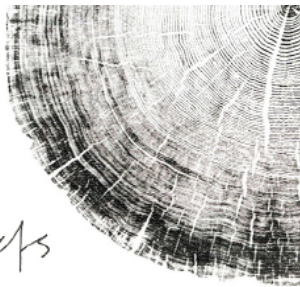
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MUCH BIRCH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultation on Draft Plan

Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031, a guide to development and change in the county, sets out targets for minimum level of Housing growth required across the county and within parishes and villages. The minimum figure for Much Birch Parish is 57 and a higher target figure is recommended. At present the number of dwellings for which planning permission has been granted (but not all these sites have yet been developed) is 71.

In addition to a target figure for Housing Development the Herefordshire Council sets out in the Local Plan the broader context within which plans for future development should be considered e.g. employment, transport, climate change, education. The Much Birch Neighbourhood Development plan has been drafted with reference to this guidance.

This draft plan is based on the results of consultation with the Much Birch community through an initial survey, public consultation events and listening to the views of residents. It sets out how Much Birch Parish Council and the Community plan to meet the (Herefordshire Core Strategy) target housing development numbers within the context of positive future development for our rural Parish.

Currently the draft plan proposes:
 - Some minor changes to previous Development Boundaries.
 - Included within this are 3 housing sites which more than satisfy the required housing target.
 - A number of other policies reflecting concerns expressed by the community including the environment, housing, transport, community facilities and supporting businesses.

You are invited to comment on the Plan which can be viewed on-line under 'Neighbourhood Plan' at <http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/ndp.html>
 Copies are also available for inspection at Much Birch Community Hall; Hereford Library; Ross on Wye Library; Pilgrim Hotel; Wormelov Tump Public House; Axe & Cleaver Public House; and The Carrot & Wine Shop at Wormelov during their normal opening hours or may be borrowed by emailing cjgrover@waitrose.com or by telephoning 01981 541130. Comments should be sent to Parish Clerk, Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire, HR2 9NE or scanned and emailed to: muchbirchclerk@gmail.com

All comments must be received by 12.00am. on Tuesday 11th February 2020

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Ross & District Civic Society will be holding their first meeting of the year on Wednesday 15th January 2020, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the Larruperz Community Centre, Ross. The Talk is entitled 'DISASTER AT WELSH BICKNOR' and describes the crash of the Halifax Bomber carrying some of Britain's most brilliant scientists. The Speaker will be David Scaysbrook. All interested are welcome. £5 for guests, no charge for Members. For further details ring 01989 562424.

Ross & District Civic Society will be holding their February meeting on Wednesday 12th February, 2020, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at the Larruperz Community Centre, Ross. The illustrated Talk will be about THE SCUDAMORE FAMILY OF KENT-CHURCH COURT & HOLME LACY HOUSE by the well-known local historian, Heather Hurley. All are welcome. Visitors £5, Members no charge. For further details ring 01989 562424



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WORMELOW

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.

KINGS THORN & LITTLE BIRCH

GARDENING CLUB

At last month's meeting, Bill Laws gave us an entertaining illustrated talk on Garden Tools. We found out that the wheelbarrow had been invented nearly 2000 years ago in China. He also had some interesting wheelbarrow photos showing its development through to modern day. He said that we all probably have our favourite garden tool and the great Gertrude Jekyll's was the simple 'Daisy Grubber'. What's yours?

Bill Laws is a journalist and founded the county reminiscence group 'Herefordshire Lore' and has written several books on garden topics. In a raffle, one of our members won a copy of his book 'Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History', signed by Bill.

At our **Winter Social** in December, our members enjoyed the usual fare: Shepherd's Pie, in a variety of forms and Apple Pie - for which the committee would like to thank all our volunteer bakers. The evening finished with us all joining in the singing of 'The 12 Days of Christmas' - ably conducted by Lesley Chapman!

Wednesday 29 January – A Tree Surgeon's Life

Adrian Hope, who has spoken to us before, will tell us about his very successful tree surgery business. He has worked throughout the UK, but mainly locally, and has many stories to tell about the work he undertakes. He will show us photos of many of his more interesting tree projects.

Adrian is a genuine tree expert and will be able to answer all our questions on tree care and entertain us with all of his experience. Not one to miss.

Anyone interested in attending our Garden Club meetings are always welcome to join us - simply by paying £3 on the door. Our meetings start at 7.30pm, usually on the last Wednesday of the month, in Little Birch Village Hall. Refreshments are served.

**The committee would like to wish our members,
and all
the 'Birches' community a very Happy New Year.**

Interested in joining the Kings Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club? Call our Membership Secretary on 01981 540327.



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2020 VISION

As we go into a new decade, I would like to thank all who make this 'BIRCHES' newsletter possible.

Top of my list has to be our fantastic Editor – Liz Hall. I know that putting this publication together is just a work of genius. Mixing all the events, that are sent to Liz in various ways. with the advertising – and then to do it all over again next month, but differently. And to a deadline!

I'm part of the three man print team and so I am thanking my partners - John Caton and Owen Cockram for both their splendid efforts each month.

We print over 500 copies – 16/18 pages - and these are then distributed by a dedicated team involving many people. But I would particularly like to thank Dick Brimacombe and Des Wathen for their stellar work over many years.

I like to think that the BIRCHES Newsletter connects this community and all its activities. It's a privilege to live in such a vibrant community in such a beautiful, rural area. I'm hoping 'BIRCHES' will continue to improve and serve all our readers. *Happy New Year.*

Often New Year is the time for new resolutions – do you feel you would like to support this community? I know that there are many of our organisations who would like to hear from you!

Mike Leigh

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**MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL
SMART WATER - an opportunity for you**

The Parish Council is considering the possibility of providing "Smart Water" property marking kits to households in the parish. Marked property is often traced back to the owner and the marking is advertised to provide a deterrent, in the first place, to potential thieves. It was agreed that the Parish Council would try to see if there was a demand for the kits, which would be one per household and free of charge. If you would be interested to receive a kit please contact either your local councillor, or the clerk at muchbirchclerk@gmail.com to register your interest. The Parish Council do need a good level of take-up to proceed with the proposal so do register your interest.

Footprints

Our last walk took us down to Dewsall Court on a sunny and blowy Sunday morning. Dewsall Court is a restored 17th century estate which is now an impressive wedding venue. The footpath took us through the grounds to the church where a bunch of mistletoe was strategically hanging above the church porch. A steep ascent up through the woods brought us back to LB village hall.

Parish Walk

Sunday 19 January at 1.30pm

Meeting at Little Birch Village Hall and walking about 4.5 miles through Athelstan's Woods towards Little Dewchurch. There will be stiles, muddy paths and some steep paths.

All welcome!

Angela

ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk

Volunteer Footpath Officer for Little Birch

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The clocks have changed and the nights are drawing in, but there are still plenty of reasons to come back to the Pilgrim and enjoy the fabulous countryside and Christmas Shopping that Herefordshire can offer. Friendly and welcoming staff, a new Evening Menu and a "Gin Bar" featuring Fever Tree mixers may also help to speed up your return.

To make it even more beneficial to come back, we have created a new "Discount Code" solely for returning guests. Using the code RETURN during the reservation process [on the right of the date selection boxes] and you will earn a £25 per night discount from the price of all All Inclusive reservations between November 1st and January 31st 2020.

In effect you will be paying the same price as "Dinner Bed & Breakfast", whilst enjoying the extra Cream Tea, Pre-Dinner Drink and Complimentary Bottle of House Wine of the All Inclusive package. Truly great value for money.

Rooms include our Country Collection Twins & Kings as well as our standard Valley View King rooms. These stays are for 2 people sharing a room only and can only be booked via our website.

[WEBSITE](#)

All the other offers listed below can be made by email or phone call, so please check your diaries and make that booking!

Best Wishes
Steve & The Team

History of the Hotel Name

The Hotel takes its name from its position on the Pilgrimage route for St Ethelbert, who was King of East Anglia from circa 779 to his untimely death in 794.

Ethelbert was lured to the Palace of King Offa, just north of Hereford, where he was promised the hand of the King's daughter, Eadburgh, in marriage.

When he arrived at Sutton Walls Palace he was treacherously captured & beheaded with his body thrown into a ditch.

He was eventually reunited with his head by a local monk and laid to rest in a tomb on the site of the current Hereford Cathedral. Miracles were later reported to be connected to his shrine and he was later Canonised.

"Saint Ethelbert" is now one of two patron saints of the Cathedral, which has created the Order of St Ethelbert in his honour

Menus on website www.pilgrimhotel.co.uk
Booking is recommended - 01981 540742

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Contact:

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Or Visit my Facebook Page.

13th December 2019

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th December 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall.

SMART WATER - an opportunity for you

The Parish Council discussed the possibility of providing "Smart Water" property marking kits to households in the parish. Marked property is often traced back to the owner and the marking is advertised to provide a deterrent, in the first place, to potential thieves. It was agreed that the Parish Council would try to see if there was a demand for the kits, which would be one per household and free of charge. If you would be interested to receive a kit please contact either your local councillor, or the clerk, to register your interest. The Parish Council do need a good level of take-up to proceed with the proposal so do register your interest.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation on Regulation 14 will run until 12.00 am on Tuesday 11th February. Details of the consultation papers may be found at:
<http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk/ndpdocs.html>

The Steering Group would be pleased to receive any representations you may wish to make about these documents.

Please submit any representations on the draft plan and supporting documents by e mail to: muchbirch-clerk@gmail.com or by post to: Parish Clerk, Much Birch Parish Council, Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone, Herefordshire, HR2 9NE by 12.00 am on Tuesday 11th February 2020.

Much Birch Parish Council will consider any representations received and will make any amendments that are considered necessary before submitting the Neighbourhood Development Plan to Herefordshire Council.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 9th January 2020 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Dates for further 2020 Parish Council Meetings are: 6 Feb, 5 March, 9 April, 8 May (Friday), 11 June, 9 July, 3 Sept, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec 2020. No meeting in August.

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 Veronica Thomas 4, Queens Close, Wormelow, Hereford, HR2 8FD Tel. 01981 540646 (no e mail)

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

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

Much Birch Parish Council Winter gritting Update November 2019

Parishioners will be aware that in the event of snow responsibility for gritting the A49 (trunk road) is with Highways England who have a schedule for regular gritting.

Herefordshire Council (HC) has responsibility for gritting all other roads and have categorised the A466 and Tump Lane as priority routes as is the road through Kingsthorpe being the route for a main and frequent bus service. The Thorn and Barrack Hill are on the secondary routes for gritting.

Grit bins are sited throughout Much Birch Parish mainly where there are slopes, challenging road junctions and sharp bends. The majority of these bins have been supplied by HC. This year in response to additional identified need Much Birch Parish Council (MBPC) has funded several additional grit bins in locations which do not currently meet HC's criteria for the provision of one.

Bin filling.

Grit Bins that are the property of HC (marked accordingly) have been filled in readiness for the start of the winter and HC advises that if salt and resources allow they will re-stock these bins on request. The Parish Council will monitor and follow up this undertaking. Grit bins provided/sited by MBPC will be filled in readiness for winter and re-stocked as necessary.

Gritting guidance as advised by bin and salt suppliers.

When using the grit only a small amount is needed as a full shovel will be sufficient for 20-30 square metres. For maximum effect it should be spread in tyre tracks as it will then be carried further by vehicles.

Please note that the grit is only for use on public roads and pavements and not for use on private property.

The Parish Council would like to thank in advance all those who so kindly volunteer to assist others when we experience bad weather. Your generosity is appreciated.

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

Cllr Peter Rees	Chair		
Cllr Janet Gwinnett	Vice Chair		
Cllr Kate Dillon			
Cllr Michael Davies			
Cllr Kate Robbins			
Angela Middleton	Volunteer Footpath Officer		
Sophie Glover	Clerk	01432 617306	lbpcclerk@gmail.com

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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Little Birch Parish Facebook Group



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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

Get in touch

101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime
herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

www.westmercia.police.uk

Herefordshire Cops / @southsidecops

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via www.westmercia.police.uk.



South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Make the difference

For more information about becoming a Special Constable, please visit,

Warwickshire Police: www.warwickshire.police.uk/specialconstables

West Mercia Police: www.westmercia.police.uk/specialconstables