

# THE **Birches**

## **Community Matters**

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

First published 1977 **July-August 2021**

### A note from the Editorial Team.

With many apologies for the late publishing of the July Newsletter. The Editor was somewhat "under the weather" - haven't we all been!

So, this publication is for July and August

There are many events taking place locally in the coming months which we are delighted to feature in this month's issue

*Best wishes to all*

*Editor*

*Editorial@birchesnews.org.uk*

### **Parish Walk**

Advance notice for -

#### **Aconbury walk and Cream Tea**

**Sunday 8 August at 1.45pm**

A lovely walk through Aconbury woods and down and around Aconbury village - **3.7 miles** and returning to Merrivale Farm for a delicious cream tea!

Generous donations are towards Sue's 'Mighty Hikes' a sponsored walk for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Parking at the start point at Merrivale Farm, Little Birch HR2 8BA

You can also join us at LBVH as we pass at about 2.15pm (let me know so we don't miss you).

If you are thinking of coming it would be useful to know numbers.

All welcome!

Angela Middleton

Voluntary Footpath Officer

01981 540377

[ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk)

### **The Birches Camera Club and Photography Group....**



Have, once again, sent us some wonderful photographs of views and wildlife which you will see scattered around this publication. Many thanks to this marvellous group.

For further information about the group please contact.....

*Sally Nichol at [sally.nichol@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.nichol@btinternet.com)*

### **Community Café @ Much Birch Community Hall**

When restrictions are lifted, we hope to be able to make a date to restart the Community Café.

It will be wonderful to see everyone again and share the joys and sorrows of the past year over tea, coffee and cake. So fingers crossed and watch this space!



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



**at Much Birch  
Community Hall**

#### **Flicks in the Sticks Update**

We have missed seeing our audiences at Flicks in the Sticks! We plan to return to monthly films in September, with the first screening being on **Thursday 23 September**. Looking forward to seeing you then!

If you have suggestions of films you would like us to screen in the future you can email them to [muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com](mailto:muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com)

**Much Birch Flicks Team**

# Much Birch Surgery

## NHS Digital Data Collection

### Data sharing with NHS Digital will start on 1 September 2021.

The NHS needs data about the patients it treats to plan and deliver its services and to ensure that care and treatment provided is safe and effective. The General Practice Data for Planning and Research data collection will help the NHS to improve health and care services for everyone by collecting patient data that can be used to do this.

NHS Digital has engaged with the British Medical Association (BMA), Royal College of GPs (RCGP) and the National Data Guardian (NDG) to ensure relevant safeguards are in place for patients and GP practices.

### NHS Digital purposes for processing patient data

NHS Digital will collect, analyse, publish and share this patient data to improve health and care services for everyone.

This includes:

- informing and developing health and social care policy
- planning and commissioning health and care services
- taking steps to protect public health (including managing and monitoring the coronavirus pandemic)
- in exceptional circumstances, providing you with individual care enabling healthcare and scientific research

Any data that NHS Digital collects will only be used for health and care purposes. It is never shared with marketing or insurance companies.

### What patient data NHS Digital Collect?

Patient data will be collected from GP medical records about:

- any living patient registered at a GP practice in England when the collection starts - this includes children and adults
- any patient who died after the data collection starts, and was previously registered at a GP practice in England when the data collection started

NHS Digital will not collect your name or where you live. Any other data that could directly identify you, for example NHS number, General Practice Local Patient Number, full postcode and date of birth, is replaced with unique codes which are produced by de-identification software before the data is shared with NHS Digital.

This process is called pseudonymisation and means that no one will be able to directly identify you in the data.

### Opting out of NHS Digital collecting your data (Type 1 Opt-out)

If you do not want your patient data to be shared outside of your GP practice for purposes except for your own care, you can register an opt-out with your GP practice. This is known as a Type 1 Opt-out.

Data sharing with NHS Digital will start on 1 September 2021.

If you wish to register an opt-out you have until **25 August 2021** to allow time for processing it. Please go to the practice website [www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk](http://www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk) and navigate to the Privacy Notice page using the tab on the right hand side and follow the links to take you to a web form <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/> Alternatively, you can print a paper form to return to the practice.

If you do not have access to the internet please ask for a Type 1 opt-out form at the practice.

## Covid Vaccine Update

We are pleased to report that 80% of patients aged 16 and over have received a 1<sup>st</sup> dose and 68% have received both doses.

We thank patients for their support and patience during this extremely busy restoration period. Particular thanks to those patients who have gone out of their way to show their appreciation, it really makes a difference.

**Website:** <https://www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk/website/M81024/files/newsletter.pdf>

**Facebook:** [Much Birch Surgery Patient Information Page](#)



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## Jobs for the garden in July and August



### From Derek Scrivens

Plant Autumn flowering bulbs – Colchicum, Sternbergia, Nerine.

Raise the blades on the mower now when cutting the lawn.

Clean foliage and remove any dead leaves from house plants.

Regularly dead head flowers to promote new flowers.

Camellias and rhododendrons should be well watered with rain water, particularly those in tubs, to produce next year's flower buds.

Keep the hoe going.

Early potatoes should be ready now.

Harvest courgettes and beans regularly and also make the most of all young vegetables; lift onions and garlic when foliage starts to turn yellow.

Feed tomatoes, peppers and melons with high potash fertilizer and cucumbers with nitrogen feed.

Cover brassicas with a fine mesh to protect them from caterpillars.

Take semi-ripe cuttings from herbs such as rosemary, sage and thyme.

Cut canes of summer fruiting raspberries to the ground. Select 6 to 8 strong, new green canes at each root and tie them to the wire supports 10cm apart, then cut out all the others.

Ensure frogs, toads, newts and other animals can exit ponds.

Allow some seed heads and berries to develop for wildlife. Do not destroy wasp nests unless their location is dangerous to you.

Sow biennial plant seed now – foxgloves, teasels, wallflowers – these will flower early next year and will help feed pollinators.

*Sit back and enjoy your garden—when weather permits!*



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**Dialect & local Usages of Herefordshire.**



The Editorial Team received a very interesting article from John Kinross regarding the old dialects and local usages thereof in Herefordshire.

The original article cannot be reproduced here as it is not in a format possible for digital printing.

But the article contains some very fascinating facts about language and how it was used in the past. For example, “cussing the cook” was a term used by ploughmen who failed to grease their plough so the wheels squeaked.

A “cwutch” was an old term for a hug between people.

Also terms used for scythes—the “haft” is a sned, the pole ring holds the sned, the lower ring holds the grass-nail which controls the angle of the blade.

There are many other terms particularly regarding farm machinery which is not very surprising in this area.

If anyone would like a copy of the full article please contact the Editor who will be please to Email you a copy

editorial@birchesnews.org.uk

## Friends of the Violette Szabó GC Society



### NEWSLETTER MAY 2021

#### VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE!

*With much soul searching and distress,  
I have decided to postpone Violette's special anniversary from  
Sunday 11th July 2021 to Sunday 10th July 2022, with the  
future of the terrible Coronavirus being so uncertain.*

*May God watch over and care for us all.*

#### The Violette Szabó GC Museum

"Cartref House", Tump Lane, Wormelow, Herefordshire HR2 8HN  
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Whitfield House, Wormbridge, Herefordshire HR2 9DG

Think  rethink.

# Little Birch Village Hall

## Chairman's report 2020/21



The continued restrictions due to the Corona Virus pandemic meant that the hall has remained closed since our last annual meeting 12 months ago.

The hall committee have however taken advantage of the closure to complete improvement works that would otherwise have proved disruptive if the hall had been open to our usual groups and events. My thanks in particular go to Bob Barnett & Peter Rees for their incredible dedication and hard work in the planning and execution of all the work at the hall and specifically the fantastic new kitchen that we now have. Thanks also to Tim, Murray, Janet, Andrew, Kate & John and all the local community members who have helped with a variety of jobs inside and outside of the hall either as part of the regular Friday sessions Bob & Peter held at the hall or at the work parties where external work and indoor painting was completed. I think we can all agree that the hall is looking better than it has for a long time.

Financially we have been able to secure grant funding during the pandemic that have enabled the hall to remain financially stable. Thanks to Linda and to Bob for dealing with the application process. Details of our financial position are detailed in the treasurer's report and annual accounts.

Thanks go to Linda for liaising with hirers to keep them updated, gathering quotes and placing orders for equipment and cleaning services to ensure that the hall will be covid secure and safe when we are able to re-open, hopefully soon.

The Village Hall committee has met online when necessary throughout the year to agree works and discuss other pressing matters as they have arisen. All being well we should now be able to return to in person meetings at the hall going forward.

The Birches newsletter continues to be produced monthly with periods of online only editions as lockdown restrictions dictated but is now back to printed copies. Thanks as ever go to Liz, the Editor, who continues to do a fantastic job editing and producing the newsletter and to Mike Leigh who arranges distribution and to the many volunteers who deliver door to door.

I want to give special mention to Margaret Scrivens who has had to step down from the committee due to health reasons. Margaret had served as a committee member for many years and more recently as our treasurer. Margaret's passion and enthusiasm for the hall and our local community will be sadly missed but I know I speak for the entire committee when I say a heartfelt thankyou and best wishes for the future.

Geoff Young kindly stepped in to cover the role of treasurer. Many thanks to Geoff.

Peter Rees also stepped down from the committee during the last 12 months but as detailed above, Peter continues to be heavily involved in improving the hall and supporting the local community in his role as Chair of the parish council. Thank you, Peter.

We have had an unusual year, but I feel that we have risen to the challenge and can now look forward to re-opening the new and improved hall soon. My thanks go to every member of the committee who has been involved in the work at the hall over the last year and I can't wait to see the hall open again.

Ben Roberts

Chair



We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. The shop still remains very busy, but what a difference between today and this time last year in terms of both weather and day-to-day life. As we are hopefully approaching the light at the end of the tunnel, we have moved deliveries to a Friday alone and are so pleased to see so many of our customers back in the shop.

Local seasonal produce is now beginning to come in - we welcome our first strawberry delivery of the year this week from Windmill Hill. We have also recently refreshed our range in general and have now got lots of new, exciting products as well as the usual favourites.

We would like to say thank you again to all of you who contributed to our 'Christmas Party' funds - we were finally able to get together at The Viking Games for a fun, socially-distanced afternoon of activities. As always, if we can ever be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,  
Ella Davies  
Manager

Carrot&Wine Stores Ltd  
1 Queens Close,  
Wormelow,  
Hereford  
HR2 8FD  
01981540126



### 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

### Your Little Birch Parish 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

### Little Birch Parish Council

For updates and notifications of future meetings please check out the website –  
[www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org).

[lbpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lbpcclerk@gmail.com)

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# PILATES

with Alison Allan

## PILATES ZOOMING AGAIN

Wednesdays 7pm

Due to Covid19 restrictions Pilates is back on Zoom.

In the comfort of your own home you can still get a great workout and you don't even need to leave your front door! Zoom works well. We can see each other clearly and I give teaching instructions so you are still benefiting from my guidance – it's not like following a video.

If you are unsure about how to get started or want to ask any questions, I am happy to help.

Just give me a call!

01432 840491

07947 011707

[Alisonpilates2016@gmail.com](mailto:Alisonpilates2016@gmail.com)

Pilates with Alison Allan on **Facebook**.

Please send copy for the September 2021 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 August please.



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07739953864

I'm Richard, and I offer IT support around rural Hereford.

I have 25 years' experience of working with technology, supporting a vast range of people, from technophobes to technogeeks!

I aim to specifically support the more senior users within our community, who often appreciate a completely different approach. I won't burden anyone with jargon and will offer only gentle and compassionate support. This can help the user feel more comfortable with tackling technology and lead to a growing confidence.

Sometimes, the tech issue might be the initial reason for contact and all that's really required is someone to sit patiently and share a cuppa. I can do that too, I'm a great listener!

If you need a friendly chat over a cuppa, whilst I sort out your IT issues, get in touch using the info above.

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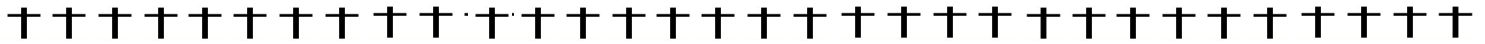
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## The future role of the church!

Hi Everyone,

With the extension of the lockdown until mid-July, the churches in the Benefice have continued to operate on a restricted basis – although we have returned to some Sunday worship (see the list in the newsletter for details) we are still social distancing and not singing (well loudly, I am happy for people to ,mumble behind their masks!).

We have maintained worship – sung the praises of God even in difficult times but we have had to make some changes. We have hand sanitiser and attendance lists, the keeping clear every other pew, disposable service booklets and such like.

We have been able to help some folks get married – usually with a restricted number and keeping to our social distancing regulations, and similarly for those who have asked for baptism, we have done services for them as well. Funerals have, as you might expect, been more tricky but with broadcast technology, having to restrict the number in church has meant that all those who wanted to attend have done so, even if they have been out in the churchyard.

The future of our churches is also something we are looking at. With the drop in services, we have had less income. Fortunately the Parish Giving Scheme has stepped into the breach. If you want to support your local church with a donation, simply go to [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk).

People sometimes say, but you have loads of money and property – and we do, but that has to pay for clergy pensions and housing (we don't own our own home), support innumerable Grade 1 and 2\* listed buildings etc. We get no government support or grants.

Finally, the roles of churches have always changed through history. In mediaeval times they were places of markets and entertainment as well as sacred worship. The installation of pews put a stop to that! May be, for some of our churches, it is time to take out some of the pews and remake them to be community hubs. As we go through the changes and challenges of COVID 19, some deep thinking and praying is needed for the future of the buildings and the worshipping communities.

With every blessing,

Revd Mark



### Church services for July

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July      9.15 a.m. Much Birch Holy Communion  
                                 11.00 a.m. Little Birch Morning Worship

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July      9.15 a.m. Much Birch Holy Communion  
                                 11.00 a.m. Little birch Holy Communion (traditional language)



**Much Birch Parish Council**  
Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright  
Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone,  
Herefordshire HR2 9NE  
Tel. 01981 250860

Email: [muchbirchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:muchbirchclerk@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**PARISH MEETING** - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform, during the Covid 19 Virus pandemic, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 from 7.30 pm.

The Parish Council held the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Meetings of the Parish Council. The Chair and Vice Chair were elected for the year ahead. The Parish Council currently has two vacancies which may now be filled by co-option at a future parish council meeting. If you are interested in joining the parish council, or if you know someone who is, please contact the clerk or one of the existing councillors for details.

The Neighbourhood Plan Referendum saw the adoption of the Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan by a majority vote. A big thank you to all who were involved in developing the plan was expressed at the meeting and is reiterated here. Thank you to all involved - councillors existing and previous plus local residents and the consultant and clerk.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 from 7.30pm** - medium/location to be advised via Agenda. All are welcome to attend.

**Dates for 2021 Parish Council Meetings are as follows:** July 8, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2.

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

**Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-**

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

**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

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>

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).

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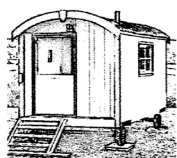
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*Abbey Silent*

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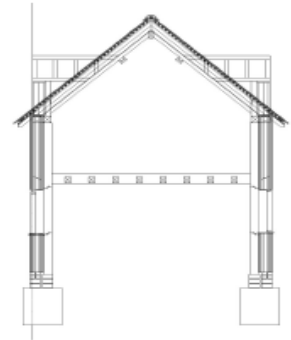
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She has a special talent that  
I know you'd never guess.

She's fond of eating chocolate  
which I feed her every day.  
The chocolate makes her happy so  
she starts to swing and sway.



She jiggles and she joggles.  
She wiggles and she whirls.  
She boogies and she bounces.  
She taps and twists and twirls.



She shivers and she shudders.  
She quivers and she quakes.  
I feed her chocolate candy and  
she gives me chocolate shakes.

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