

# The Birches

## Community Matters Newsletter

Kingsthorpe, Much Birch, Little Birch,  
Aconbury & Wormelow July/August 2024



### "A MINOR OPERATION"

by Frank Ryding



Little Birch Village Hall is proud to host the latest summer show. A Farce, featuring a small Cottage Hospital and the staff who will stop at nothing to stay operating!

When: Thursday 11th July 7.00 p.m.

Friday 12th July 7.00 p.m.

Saturday 13th July 7.00 p.m.

Curtains up at 7.30pm

Licensed bar (cash only) available  
Two Course meal provided with price of ticket. (Vegetarian option available if booked - ask when booking tickets.)

Tickets cost £15.00 a head.

Tickets from Bob/Tonya on  
07890206201 OR Sarah on  
07849151085

## LITTLE BIRCH FAMILY FETE & FUN DAY

Saturday 6th July - 2pm

Castle Nibole Farm

Just off Barrack Hill towards the Castle Inn

Bouncy castle, games, crafts, afternoon-teas, strawberries & cream, plant stall, music, bottle stall, welly wanging, hot dogs and much much more.



Donations of cakes, bottles, plants etc. much appreciated.

Contact John Caton 01981 540415

All proceeds to Little Birch Church

Table Tennis  
Tuesday 2nd July  
Little Birch Village Hall  
7-9pm £3



Kings Thorn & Little Birch Plant Sale see page 4



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**@ Much Birch Community Hall**

**Saturday 13 July 2024**

**10:00 - 12:30**

and every 2nd Saturday of the month

**No café in August**

**14 September**

**12 October**

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



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



**Violette Zsabo Day**

Rosemary Rigby, who founded the Violette Zsabo Museum in Wormelow, is hosting a celebration of the life of Violette Zsabo on July 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1.30 with members of the armed forces marching from the

Park at Wormelow to the Millenium Green.

Violette was awarded the George Cross for her bravery working in occupied France as an agent of the Special Operations Executive during WWII. She was captured and sent to the concentration camp at Ravensbruck, where she was shot, aged 23.

People are invited to bring a picnic to the Green.

**MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council is seeking to appoint a new Lengthsman for the Parish. Duties will include mowing, strimming, clearing ditches and gullies, digging grips, cleaning signs, trimming over-growth of plants and general minor roads up-keep and maintenance. Relevant experience and appropriate insurance are essential.

If you are interested in applying for the post an application form can be obtained by contacting: **Alison Wright (Parish Clerk)**

**E mail: [muchbirchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:muchbirchclerk@gmail.com)**

**Little Birch Family Fete and Fun Day**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm**

**Castle Nibole**

**Donations of cakes, bottles and plants much appreciated**

**Just bring on the day**

**Coffee & Books**

**Little Birch Village Hall**

**Saturday 20th July**

**Thursday 1st August**

**Saturday 17th August**

**10.00-12.00 noon**

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, some cake and biscuits. Make new friends or catch up with old friends.

Borrow books from a good selection of fiction and some non fiction.

Exchange recommendations for a good read.

Families & well behaved dogs welcome

**Art and Craft Space**

We meet every Thursday afternoon 2 until 4 at Little Birch Village Hall at the top of Barrack Hill HR2 8AZ. We bring along our own projects and have a monthly theme. Feel free to do your own projects. You don't have to follow the themes if you would rather do something else. For more information please contact Sally Nichol tel. 07803 032928 01981 540001 email [sally.nichol@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.nichol@btinternet.com)

Revd Mark writes – Election Thoughts

As I write this, we are deep into the General Election campaign for 2024. And it seems to me that two things have become clear.

Firstly, we are rather cynical about all politicians. It doesn't seem to matter which party they stand for and what election promises they make or even what is in the manifesto (an Italian word from the 1640s, derived from Latin, Manus – hand and Festus – grabbing!).

We see them as trying anything to get their own way and possibly to enrich themselves above the good government of the country. Our cynicism has been growing over the years but is now more pronounced than ever. It has probably not changed since the days of that other Italian influence on politics and power, Machiavelli, in effect. It is just that we are more aware of it now.

The second, and perhaps related thing, is the amount of information that is around. We have Google at our fingertips so

we can check up on the costs of a 1 pence increase in income tax and how much that would raise. Of course, the information is only reliable as much as we can trust the source.

Again, we find ourselves being somewhat in a bind, who is supplying the information and can we trust them? Both these points come back to trust – can we trust the people and the information? And that is the big question we must ask ourselves because one of the things we know about ourselves is that we have inherent biases, we will trust one thing over another just because it sits better with us, though it may or may not be correct.

So we need to recognise the biases in ourselves and then we can have a go at looking at the promises and offers on the table and see which one we think will be the best - the best for us or for our country or even for our world. The choice is yours when it comes to putting that x in a box on a bit of paper on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Services in July and August

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July (6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 a.m. at Much Dewchurch – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch – Holy Communion
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> July (7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 a.m. at Much Birch – Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch – Morning Prayer
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> July (8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 a.m. at Much Birch – Morning Worship 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch – Holy Communion in Traditional Language 5.00 p.m. at Llanwarne – Evensong with the Hereford Church Singers
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July (9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 a.m. at Llandinabo – Holy Communion in Traditional Language
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August (10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 a.m. at Much Dewchurch - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch - Holy Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> August (11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 a.m. at Much Birch - Holy Communion 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch - Morning Worship
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> August (12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 a.m. at Much Birch - Morning Worship 11.00 a.m. at Little Birch - Holy Communion in Traditional Language
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> August (13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9.15 a.m. at Llandinabo - Holy Communion in Traditional Language.

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Photography Group

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For more information please contact Sally Nichol. tel. 07803 032928 01981 540001  
email [sally.nichol@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.nichol@btinternet.com)



## The King's Thorn & Little Birch Gardening Club Plant Sale and Horticultural Show



Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June saw the KT&LBGC set up the LBVH for their second plant sale. There were many varieties of plants to choose from- all at very competitive prices - and all donated by Club members, Pengethley Garden Centre and Allensmore Nurseries. A big thank you to those people.

The doors opened at 10am and there was a steady stream of people ready to buy the plants. Refreshments were available and the homemade cakes went down well with the visitors. There was also a sale of various books and garden items. Next year we will have the Plant Sale again so put it in your diary for the first Saturday in June!

The sale finished at 12.00 and we are pleased to report that the sale made over £300 - which the Club will put towards Speakers and the up and coming Garden Show.

**On that note** – don't forget that the Annual Horticultural Show is on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. On the back of last months' newsletter, you will have found the schedule detailing all of the classes and the Children's workshop on the Friday at 4.00pm. Do encourage your children (under 13!) and grandchildren to come along for a bit of monster making with vegetables! Have a look and see what you can enter – it's all good fun and a great way to meet people from the village in the afternoon – oh yes – there will also be tea and cake !

Any questions about the Show please do contact any of the Committee members ( numbers to be found on the schedule) or contact Lesley on 07834 771838.

### June 22<sup>nd</sup> – OPEN GARDENS

starting at 2pm at LBVH. £5 per person. Join us for an afternoon exploring the delights of local gardens, ending with tea and cake at the last garden.

### July 31<sup>st</sup> Cream Tea in Old Rectory Orchard

3.00pm - £3 per person. A chance to savour tea and scones under the leafy shade. Feel free to bring your favourite picnic treats as well and join us for our summer social.

### Advance notice: September 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Horticultural Show: Children's Workshop

Little Birch Village Hall – 4.00pm. Come and make vegetable monsters and enter them in the Show.

### September 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Horticultural Show

Open to all. Everyone encouraged to enter produce/ cakes/ handicraft/etc. Details can be found on the schedule or from Lesley Chapman 07834 771838

## Mel's Musings

### Homemade Liquid Plant Feed

Over the years I have been making my own comfrey and nettle liquid fertilizer, hereafter known as 'tea', for more years than I care to remember with great success.

A regular watering of this 'tea' throughout the growing season, along with tubs of tagetes, has seemed to have kept all my plants in tip top condition, with excellent crop production and no sign of any nasties.

I know I am tempting fate by actually saying this! I am clutching any available piece of wood whilst writing this! I rinse out 2 litre milk containers in which to store my 'tea'. I have made myself a processing unit out of an old plastic bird seed bin, into the side of which my OH has inserted a tap at the bottom in order that liquid can be decanted.

Place cut comfrey, nettles and any other deep rooted plants and place in your receptacle with a weight on top and cover. DO NOT cover with water – IT STINKS!!

Leave for a few weeks and you will be rewarded with a dark liquid you decant into your container. Water down until the colour of very weak tea and use to water your plants. Free and wonderful. You can keep topping up your net to have a continuous supply throughout the growing season. Keep any spare in bottles.

**Mel Thomas**



## Tai Chi Movements for Wellbeing

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## The Jolly Gardener

[TheJollyGardener2502@gmail.com](mailto:TheJollyGardener2502@gmail.com)

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### Elderflower Cordial

It's been a good year for elderflowers. There are still plenty in the woods. My granddaughters enjoyed picking them and making cordial. I have just made my second batch of elderflower cordial. Here is the recipe.

25 elderflower heads  
3 unwaxed lemons  
500g sugar  
1.5 litres boiled water

1. Shake elderflower heads to remove insects.  
2. Juice lemons and save juice  
3. Chop lemons, then put heads in large baking bowl with lemons, pour hot water over them, cover & leave overnight.

5. Strain the mix through a muslin cloth into a pan.

6. Add sugar and juice, heat gently to dissolve sugar, stirring constantly, then bring to the boil and simmer for a couple of minutes.

7. Pour through a funnel into sterilized bottles.

8. Dilute with water to taste. Enjoy. Will keep for months. I usually keep them in the fridge.

**Elisabeth Taylor**





### **Sausage Making Courses**

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### **Cookery Courses**

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**Is it time to learn some simple relaxation tools to let go of  
unhelpful learned behaviours?**

**Is it time to change your relationship with yourself?**

My work led me around the world teaching individually and as a course leader offering WorkShops (or maybe RestShops!) to slowly soften, unwind and return home to ourselves, allowing our bodies to rest and our minds to slow down through profound yet simple relaxation practices. Maybe it's time to give yourself these easily learned gifts?

I hold regular small afternoon groups as well as individual sessions in my Garden Studio in Little Birch.

If you know you need to dial down please get in touch  
07985 252166

**Upcoming events : Deep Relaxation afternoons @  
Little Birch Village Hall 3 August, 2 December.**

Areas of interest and training include Yoga, Yin Yoga, Vinyasa Yoga, Reflexology, Fascia Release, Wheel of Consent, Shamanic Practices including Sweat Lodges and Women's Wisdom Circles.



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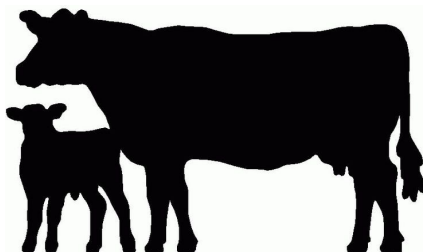
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Items for **September** newsletter to  
[editorial@birchesnews.org.uk](mailto:editorial@birchesnews.org.uk) or paper  
copy to Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 by  
**9th August**

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## Dawn Chorus Walk by Chris Fowler

On a very windy Sunday morning in April, 22 people managed to get themselves out of bed and to Little Birch Village Hall by 5.30am. The reason we had all gathered was to walk and to listen to the magnificent Dawn Chorus. Despite the wild weather the birds were still singing. Thrushes and blackbirds were the first to be heard even before we left the village hall, followed by great tits, robin, chiffchaff, warblers, wren and blackcap as we walked down Chapel pitch.

Adrian Hodges and Bob Mason were on hand to share their skills of recognising and pointing out the various birds. The highlight of the morning was hearing on several occasions a Goshawk in Athelstans Wood. After a circuit of the wood it was back to the village hall where Sue and Emily Mason had prepared a very welcome breakfast for us.

This was a lovely event which not only got us out listening to the birds but also gave us a chance to get to know some of our neighbours better.

The breakfast was provided, by the Mason's but from the donations collected £150 will be presented to St Michael's Hospice their chosen charity. I would like to say a huge thank you to Adrian, Bob, Sue and Emily Mason who made this such a special event. **Chris Fowler**

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## Much Birch Parish Council

At the Much Birch Parish Council Meeting held in Much Birch Community Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. The parish council heard about the resignation of Councillor Joseph Goldsmith from the parish council. They thanked Joseph for his time and his work on the parish council. A casual vacancy would be advertised for a new councillor.

There would be repairs made to the gate on the parish land at Valley View and the parish council would be making a site visit. There was still a vacancy for the position of Lengthsman for the parish and a separate advertisement would be published with details. There was also a discussion about an application for an amendment to the planning for Bramble Tor, at Pages Pitch, as detailed in planning consultation number 241186. The parish council had no objections to the proposals in 241186. An extension to the deadline for comments would be requested for planning consultation 241328.

The dates for the forthcoming meetings, are:  
July 11<sup>th</sup>, No meeting in August, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> and Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Much Birch Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm** at the Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend. This is a change to the previously advertised date due to the General Election.

## Much Birch Parish Council Land

Much Birch P. C. has an area of land approximately 0.18 acres, to the north of Valley View and accessed from Barrack Hill Kingsthorpe, that is currently vacant.

The land requires major clearance and we are seeking expressions of interest for undertaking that work.

A detailed specification will be provided to those interested to enable a quote to be provided.

Once cleared the land will be available to rent for the purposes of, but not limited to, private horticulture. Consideration is also being given to the possibility of sub-dividing the land into allotments if there is sufficient interest. Grazing of livestock and keeping of poultry would also be considered.

Interest in the clearance work, land rental or an allotment if available should be registered with Alison Cook, MBPC Chair, by email at [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wyenet.co.uk) no later than 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024. Informal enquiries either by email or calling 07787 554711.

## Little Birch Parish Facebook Group

Find the latest news, events & 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 local area.

*Little Birch Parish Group on Facebook*

## Little Birch Parish Councillors

CLlr Steve Coles CLlr Tom Palfrey  
CLlr Chris Atkinson CLlr Nick Deacon  
Neil Barrington, clerk [lbpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lbpcclerk@gmail.com)

Website [www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org)

## Footpath Officers

If you have any queries about footpaths, contact:

**Little Birch and Aconbury: Chris Fowler**  
[chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk) 07931 292998

**Much Birch including Kingsthorpe: David Irwin**  
[david.irwin13@btinternet.com](mailto:david.irwin13@btinternet.com) 07766 135068

## Much Birch Parish Councillors

**CLlr Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW, [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wyenet.co.uk)  
01981 540703

**CLlr Andrew Crum** Tan-y-coed, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, HR2 8AX, [a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com) 01981 540002

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

**CLlr Chris Pickering-Grey** 4 Court Farm Barns, Much Birch HR2 8HT [chris@pickering-grey.uk](mailto:chris@pickering-grey.uk) 07712 813218

**CLlr Joseph Goldsmith** Quantock House, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HX [josephagoldsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:josephagoldsmith@hotmail.com)  
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**CLlr Michael Agyeman** Little Willow, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AU 01981 540840  
[magyeman92@gmail.com](mailto:magyeman92@gmail.com)

**Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright** Longfield House, Gooses Foot, Kingstone HR2 9NE [muchbirchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:muchbirchclerk@gmail.com)  
01981 250860 Minutes of meetings  
[www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk)

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**Advertising rates are on p10.**

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# Diary Dates July 2024

<b>Table Tennis</b>	Tues 2nd LBVH 7-9pm	<b>p1</b>
<b>Family Fete &amp; Fun</b>	6th July 2pm	<b>p1</b>
<b>Violette Zsabo Day</b>	Sun 7th 1.30	<b>p2</b>
<b>MBPC Thurs</b>	11th MBCH	<b>p9</b>
<b>Community Café Sat</b>	13th MBCH	<b>p2</b>
<b>LBPC AGM Wed</b>	10th LBVH	<b>p9</b>
<b>A Minor Operation</b>	12/13th	<b>p1</b>
<b>Art&amp; Craft</b>	18th LBVH	<b>p4</b>
<b>Coffee &amp; Books Sat</b>	20th LBVH	<b>p2</b>

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¼ page £5.40 per issue or £54 per year

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**Allensmore** Locks Garage

**Backney** on the garage wall at Market Gardens Cottage

**Bridstow** on the outside of the village hall

**Garway** on the wall outside the Garway Moon pub

**Harewood End** at Harewood End Inn on outside of the pub at the back in the beer garden.

**Little Birch** on the outside of the village hall

**Llanwarne** on the wall by steps leading up to the village hall

**Much Birch** on the outside of the church hall

**Much Dewchurch** outside Steiner School, first building after the church

**Peterstow** at the Yew Tree pub

**Sellack** on the outside of the parish hall  
(key code needed)

**St Weonards** old BT phone box off the A466  
between the church and Forge Cottage

**Wormelow** at the Cricket Club & Carrot & Wine shop

**Wilton** on wall at the BP garage on the roundabout











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