

# The Birches

Community Matters Newsletter

Kingsthorpe, Much Birch, Little Birch,  
Aconbury & Wormelwode May 2023



YOU ARE INVITED TO

## A RIGHT ROYAL KNEES UP!

### Coronation 'Bring and Share' Lunch

Sunday 7th May 2022

12:30pm - 3:30pm

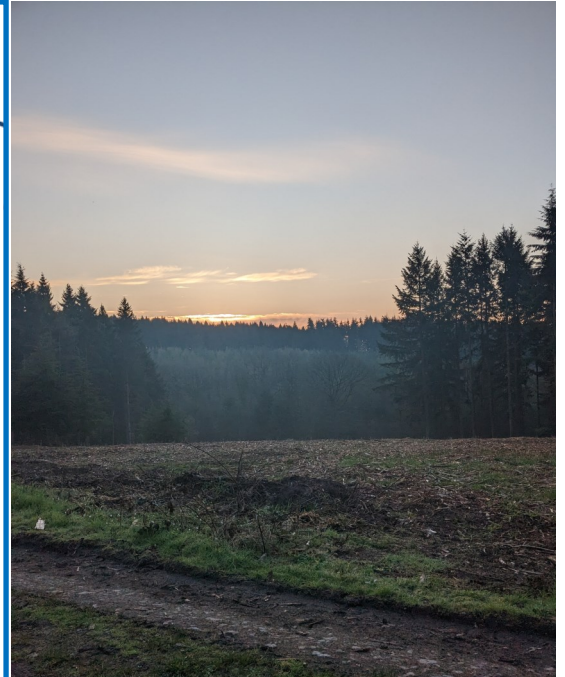
Little Birch Village Hall

*Just bring a plate of food to share*

Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available but you  
are welcome to bring a bottle



It's our community celebration for the Coronation!



Dawn Chorus Walk - see page 4



arts  
alive

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

Thursday 25 May - THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN 12

This film tells the remarkable true story of Maurice Flitcroft, a crane operator and optimistic dreamer from Barrow-in-Furness who, with the support of his family and friends, managed to gain entry to the 1976 British Open, despite never playing a round of golf before. With pluckiness and unwavering self-belief, Maurice pulls off a series of stunning, hilarious and heartwarming attempts to compete at the highest level of professional golf, drawing the ire of the golfing elite but becoming a British folk hero in the process. *Starring Mark Rylance and Sally Hawkins.*

**Tickets £5 (£4 under 16s)**

*Refreshments including hot dogs and ice cream available from 7pm*

***This is the last screening of the current season. We will return in September with more films!***

*Tickets available in advance or on the door (cash or card payments accepted)- for further info or to book tickets please email [muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com](mailto:muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com) or call 01981 540097*

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

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

FLICKS IN THE STICKS



Little Birch Village Hall



# Duchy Walk

## in Aconbury Woods

To be led by

**Geraint Richards**

Head Forester Duchy of Cornwall

A gentle walk during which he will explain the management and plans for the future

Meet at Little Birch Village Hall at 17.30

Thursday June 22nd.

Refreshments in hall afterwards, donations welcome



Little Birch and  
King's Thorn  
History Group

An illustrated talk about

# Watermills

To be given by

**Andy Tatchell**

Andy is the owner and restorer of Mordiford Mill  
(To be opened during the Mills Weekend May 13/14th.)

**Little Birch Village Hall**

**Thursday June 15th 7.30 p.m.**

Entrance Three pounds to include light refreshments

# Hope Spring eCards

Anniversaries Birthdays Christmas  
Easter Father's Day Mother's Day  
New Year Valentine's Day

Send greetings for any occasion online  
**INSTANTLY!**

[www.HopeSpringCards.co.uk](http://www.HopeSpringCards.co.uk)

## Little Birch Church Lent Lunch

The Lent Lunch raised £204.85 for the Sight Savers charity, which will be sent to support the wonderful work that they carry out. Many thanks to everybody who supplied the delicious soups, bread and cheese and who helped on the day, especially Pauline and Terry Rogers who organised everything. We catered for about thirty people, giving an opportunity for an informal get together and a most enjoyable meal. Thank you to everybody for their support.

John Caton

## Thinking about our Society

There are some “interesting” times coming – as you may well remember from the Chinese saying “May you live in interesting times!” A number of factors are combining that are going to affect us here in our bit of Herefordshire.

Firstly, is food – or rather food price inflation. We all know how much things have increased in price in recent times and that does not look like ending any time soon. Fuel and fertilizer prices are still high, grain and sunflower oil from Ukraine are affected by the continuing conflict.

Secondly, is the environment – we had a record-breaking summer last year, we had a very dry February this year so far and a wet March, we have groups highlighting the state of the Wye and farming run-off.

Thirdly, is AI – I know it doesn’t feel like it is affecting us at the moment but just a few weeks ago we all wondered at seeing Pope Francis wearing a white puffer jacket – only to discover that it was an AI generated photo. AI is in your smart-phone – whenever you take a picture, it does a lot of heavy lifting with regard to removing camera shake and sharpening up objects, adjusting colours and contrasts and a myriad other things. It is starting to write exam question answers via ChatGPT and may be even the Vicar’s sermon! If we thought COVID brought about some big changes in society – you haven’t seen anything yet.

And now is the chance to influence how these factors are going to shape our world. If we don’t care for our environment then there won’t be much of a world for us and the following generations to enjoy. If we don’t think about the way that the algorithms of AI are working, then biases in the system will become so blatant that whole groups become excluded. If we don’t think long term about how our farming system works, then we become more vulnerable to being held hostage by some outside actor.

All of this could be seen as a reason for despair, yet we have something bigger than these challenges, something which undergirds our society and that we are in danger of losing – the idea of God’s kingdom.

In the Bible a different way of living is laid out, one of community and care, one of valuing love and not material wealth, one that is supportive of human flourishing (‘Life and life in all its fulness’ from John) rather than being anonymous cogs and consumers in some great economic machine that cares nothing for our wellbeing only that we earn and spend, that we buy and sell.

God values everyone and everything – nothing is insignificant for God who made it all. Let us make sure that we keep the values that support our thriving communities no matter what “interesting” things come our way.

Revd Mark

### Services for May

<b>7th May</b>	5th Sunday after Easter	9.15am	Llandinabo	Matins
		9.15am	Much Dewchurch	Holy Communion
		11am	Dewsall	Holy Communion
		11am	Little Birch	Holy Communion
<b>14th May</b>	6th Sunday after Easter	9.15am	Much Birch	Family Communion
		9.15am	Much Dewchurch	Morning Worship
		11am	Little Birch	Morning Worship
		11am	Little Dewchurch	Holy Communion
<b>18th May</b>	Ascension Day	10.30am	Much Birch	Holy Communion
<b>21st May</b>	7th Sunday after Easter	9.15am	Much Birch	Morning Worship
		11am	Little Birch	Holy Communion
<b>28th May</b>	Pentecost	9.15am	Landinabo	Holy Communion
		6.30pm	Dinedor	Evening Prayer

## Dawn Chorus Walk

At the crack of dawn over 30 people met outside Little Birch Hall for the annual Dawn Chorus walk. It was cold but surprisingly clear and quiet. Suddenly just before we began, the morning chorus started all around us, a cacophony of song. The walk was organised by Angela with expert commentary by Bob Mason and Adrian Hodges. It was my second year and I was again surprised by how many people will get up at silly o'clock to listen to birds! It was for all ages from toddler to pensioner, walking, stopping and listening to robins, blackbirds, wrens, thrushes, chiffchaffs, blackcaps and the occasional cockerel and pheasant! We wandered down to loop round Athelstan wood through wood anemones, reminding us that Spring is only round the corner, and back up the tracks to the village hall. There Sue & Emily Mason welcomed us with warming tea and coffee and bacon butties, raising money for Farming Minds. We all discussed everything we had heard and seen as well as putting the world to rights despite the early hour. A perfect start to Easter day and a reminder of the amazing nature which surrounds us and our need to stop and listen more despite the pace of life. **David Irwin**



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## SOUTH HERFORD REPAIR CAFÉ AT DINEDOR VILLAGE HALL



### They Didn't Bin It! We Repaired It!

We had a very successful "soft opening" on 15<sup>th</sup> April and now will open on the **third Saturday of each month** (except in August and December) from 10:00am to 12:30pm. Repairs on the 15th included a Dyson vacuum cleaner, a standard lamp, and a ceramic ornament, while a family-valued video cassette jammed in a player was extracted. Jeans zips were replaced, the sleeves of a fleece jacket shortened, and the button on a trouser waistband eased. Several pairs of secateurs, shears, and loppers were sharpened as well as kitchen knives and an axe.

We throw away vast amounts of stuff! Even things with almost nothing wrong which might get a new lease of life with a simple repair. That is why we are here to help, and why we shall be very pleased to see you in Dinedor on **20<sup>th</sup> May** or at a later session.

To hopefully ensure a smooth flow of repairs we request that all items for repair are booked in with us in advance with items for Saturday 20th May **BOOKED BY THURSDAY 18TH MAY AT** [www.repaircafesouthhereford.org.uk](http://www.repaircafesouthhereford.org.uk)

While you are waiting for your repair you can also enjoy tea, coffee and cake in our café!

Dinedor Village Hall is easy to find. Leaving Rotherwas on the B4399 for Holme Lacy after 1 mile turn right and then you will find us after 400 metres on the left. Post code: HR2 6LQ. What3words: ///overcomes.remake.newspaper.

We are **STILL RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS** for our Repair Café: so if you are handy and able to repair things, or would like to help with refreshments or front-of-house: please do on a Saturday speak to our reception desk or e-mail us at [repaircafe@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:repaircafe@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk)



## Open Gardens

Visitors will be able to explore the Chapter House Garden, Cloister Garden, Canons' Garden, Dean's Garden and the Bishop's Garden at their own leisure with our team of volunteer garden guides on hand in each garden to answer any questions. This is a self-led event where you are welcome to enjoy the peaceful and beautiful gardens at your own pace.

**Wednesday 17 May, 10am - 12.30pm & 12.30pm - 3.30pm, Tickets cost £6 via the cathedral website.**

## Coronation Exhibitions

**Wednesday 3 - Friday 19 May**  
during normal opening hours

Visit the cathedral to view photographs from royal visits throughout the years, an archive display of royal seals and documents and a selection of artwork by local primary schoolchildren celebrating King Charles' values.

## Birches Newsletter— Save paper—Read online

Email [editorial@birchesnews.org.uk](mailto:editorial@birchesnews.org.uk)  
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## The Jolly Gardener

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Beginners class  
Little Dewchurch  
Wednesday 8pm  
Starting 26<sup>th</sup> April

# Pilates with Alison Allan

My number: 07947 011707  
Email: alisonpilates2016@gmail.com



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richard@teaandtech.co.uk  
07739953864

I'm Richard, and I offer IT tech support around rural Hereford. I have 25 years' experience of working within 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!

I can support you with many problems (here's a sample):

- General tips and advice
- Fault finding
- Software support
- New PC Installation / Setup
- Virus & Malware Removal
- Email Troubleshooting & Setup
- Broadband Internet & Router Setup
- Wi-Fi Range Issues
- Software Installation
- Windows Reinstall / Refresh
- Slow Computer Clean-up
- Printer Installation / Troubleshooting
- Backup Advice & Solutions
- Solid State Drive (SSD) Upgrades
- Data Recovery
- Laptop Battery Replacement
- PC & Laptop Upgrades & Advice

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



## Much Birch Parish Council

At the Parish Council Meeting held in Much Birch Community Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> April the Parish Council discussed and agreed to comments in regard to a local planning application: Planning Consultation 230559 for a green oak framed single storey garden room. The Parish Council supported the application.

The Parish Council discussed the forthcoming parish and ward elections. Details of the prospective candidates for both parish and ward councillor positions have been displayed on the parish notice boards in the bus stop at Kingsthorne and also by the Much Birch Community Centre. Cllr David Baldwin will not be standing for re-election and the Parish Council recorded a big "thank you" to David for all of his work on behalf of the parish over a number of years. The elections will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. Please remember that you will need to show photo ID in order to vote at the polling station. A passport or driving licence or any other approved identification, bearing your likeness, will be admissible. More details about this may be found at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id?gclsrc=aw.ds>

The dates for the forthcoming meetings are as advised below: May 11<sup>th</sup>, June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, no meeting in August, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. The next Parish Council Meetings (Annual Parish and Annual Statutory), of the Much Birch Parish Council, will be held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 from 7.30pm** at the Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome.

## Much Birch Parish Councillors

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

**Cllr Andrew Crum** Tan-y-coed, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorne, 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 David Baldwin** Perry House, Much Birch, HR2 8HS  
[baldwin79@btinternet.com](mailto:baldwin79@btinternet.com) 01981 541198

**Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey** 4 Court Farm Barns, Much Birch HR28HT [chris@pickering-grey.uk](mailto:chris@pickering-grey.uk) 07712 813218

**Cllr Joseph Goldsmith** Quantock House, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, HR2 8HX [josephgoldsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:josephgoldsmith@hotmail.com)  
07967 728590

**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),  
<https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>



Much Birch Community Hall

Much Birch Community Hall has a new website!  
Check it out here for information about booking the hall and more -  
[www.muchbirchcommunityhall.org](http://www.muchbirchcommunityhall.org)

## Little Birch Parish Council

There are only three nominees for the Parish Council - Dr Mike Davies, Mr Chris Atkinson and Mr Nick Deacon. There will, therefore, be no need for an election. The Parish Council remains 2 councillors short of the required 5 and would welcome any individuals who would like to volunteer. These can be co-opted onto the council. Would interested individuals please make contact via the Parish Clerk, Neil Barrington.

Planning application 23740 was supported.

The new bank account has been successfully activated and the PC will be closing the old account as soon as the precept has been paid.

The PC formally thanked Kate Dillon, Kate Robbins and Toni Fagan for their contributions over the past 4 years.

### Little Birch Parish Councillors

Cllr Michael Davies, chair

Cllr Kate Robbins

Cllr Chris Atkinson

Cllr Nick Deacon

Neil Barrington, clerk [lbpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lbpcclerk@gmail.com)

## 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 Kingsthorne: David Irwin**

[david.irwin13@btinternet.com](mailto:david.irwin13@btinternet.com) 07766 135068

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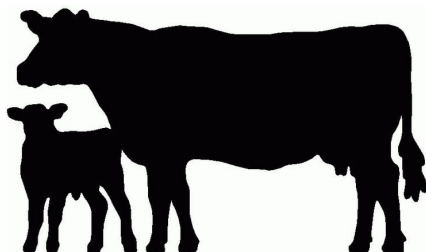
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Items for June newsletter to  
[editorial@birchesnews.org.uk](mailto:editorial@birchesnews.org.uk) or paper  
copy to Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 by  
**14th May**

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## **Tiddlers, Toddlers & StoryTellers**

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tiddlersandtoddlersmuchbirch@gmail.com

**£1 per  
person**

Facebook: Tiddlers, Toddlers, and Story Tellers - Much Birch

# Coffee Morning with Book Exchange



**Saturday 20th May  
10.00am - 12.00 noon  
Little Birch Village Hall**

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, some cake or biscuits. Make new friends or catch up with old friends. Take a book, leave a book, or both. Exchange recommendations for a good read. Families & well behaved dogs welcome.

*Look forward to seeing you*



## To the Cuckoo

Hail, beautiful stranger of the grove!  
Thou messenger of Spring  
Now heaven repairs thy rural seat,  
And woods thy welcome ring.

What time the daisy decks the green,  
Thy certain voice we hear:  
Hast thou a star to guide thy path,  
Or mark the rolling year?

Delightful visitant! With thee  
I hail the time of flowers,  
And hear the sound of music sweet  
From birds among the bowers.

Sweet bird! Thy bower is ever green,  
Thy sky is ever clear;  
Thou hast no sorrow in thy song,  
No Winter in thy year!

O could I fly, I'd fly with thee!  
We'd make, with joyful wing,  
Our annual visit o'er the globe,  
Companions of the Spring

**Michael Bruce**

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*Or on our  
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### Little 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. Look for *Little Birch Parish Group*



## Jobs for the garden in May

After the 'drought' in February hardly a day has gone by without some rain and at the time of writing we have post Easter gales. I was able to cut our grass, with the blades quite high, in late March but it desperately needs another cut, or the loan of a couple of sheep. Potatoes, onions, broad beans, cabbage, calabrese and kohlrabi have been planted out, whilst a range of vegetable seeds have been sown in modules in the greenhouse.

By the time you are reading this, we will know whether our local Cuckoo has completed the journey from central Africa, including the precarious crossing of the Sahara Desert. The BTO have tagged a number of Cuckoos and on 11<sup>th</sup> April five of those tagged had reached France and Spain but unfortunately a larger number are no longer 'active'. It would be great to see more House Martins and Swallows this year. I am writing this in mid April and so far have seen little sign of birds nesting and no frog spawn.

### Gardening Club News

Our AGM in March was attended by more members than last year which is an encouraging sign as we try to encourage locals to join us and increase our membership.

As I write this we are looking forward to a talk on the 26th April by Ian Sadler who is going to talk on 'Innovation, Automation, how your garden and house plants are produced in the 21st century'. This will be an amazing insight of how commercial nurseries work today.

Our May meeting (31st) will be a talk by Philip Aubury 'The history of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. This will take the form of a virtual tour from a retired director. There will be cards and plants for sale (cash only).

In June and July we have trips out to local gardens. On June 28th we will visit Kentchurch court, one of the best 12 secret gardens in the U.K. Then in July we will visit Weston Hall. More information to follow on each of these.

The first Saturday in September, as always, we hold our Annual Horticultural Show. Schedules available in June from all the usual places. This is a long running special event in the village to be enjoyed by all. We encourage everyone to take part in any way they can. All entries welcomed.

We will be having a table of gardening items for sale at every meeting. Bring along your surplus plants, seeds, magazines etc. We usually meet on the last on the last Wednesday of the month. Little Birch Village Hall, 7.30pm. Refreshments provided. Come along and you will be made very welcome. Annual membership is £15.00 each or £25.00 per couple. Visitors also welcomed. For further information please contact Janet Gwinnett 01981 540651.

### Here are a few ideas for May

- \*Keep weeding.
- \*Slug watch!!
- \*Spring clean' house plants, wiping dust off smooth leaves with a damp cloth. Soft brush for hairy leaves.
- \*Tender plants and young plants raised under cover can be gradually hardened off.
- \*Divide large clumps of daffodils and snowdrops.
- \*Plant up hanging baskets and containers. If you have a greenhouse, and have room in it, keep them in for a few days to help them establish or keep sheltered.
- \*Improve lawns – apply fertilizer and overseed any patchy areas keeping watered in dry spells.
- \*Sow hardy annuals.
- \*Thin seedlings when they have their first true leaves.
- \*Sow runner beans, dwarf beans, cucumbers, courgettes and squashes (not forgetting that heaviest marrow for the horticultural show).
- \*Earth up potatoes.
- \*Sow quick maturing veg. baby carrots, radish, salad leaves and spinach. None of these need large areas of ground; you could even try them in amongst flowers in borders – beetroot look attractive too.
- \*Keep bird baths clean & topped up with fresh water. Bird food should not include whole nuts or bulky items.
- \*Check ponds for tadpoles. Provide a shelf/ramp for them and, of course, other wildlife to escape.
- \*Plant scented flowers such as nicotiana, evening primrose & buddleia to attract moths, butterflies and bees. Any mauve/purple flowers will attract insects. When buying plants, single flowers are better than double flowers, as food is generally more accessible for insects from singles.

**Derek Scrivens**

## Workshop/Studio Wanted for Rent or Purchase

**Suitable for Light Industrial use with road access, electrics and water/drainage. 1,000-3,000 sq ft. Within 5 miles of Much Birch (ideally). All conditions considered as long as suitable permitted use.**

**We moved to Kingsthorpe/Much Birch last year and are looking for a suitable space to move our small sustainable business, currently based in Birmingham.**

**Please email or call [samfoggan@gmail.com](mailto:samfoggan@gmail.com)  
07738904667**



Join us for a  
**Coronation Celebration**  
**Community Café**  
 @ Much Birch Community Hall

**Saturday 13 May 2023**  
**10:00 - 12:30**

and every 2nd Saturday of the month  
 10 June 8 July 9 September

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

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

## Lesley Lowe

### My memories of Lesley

I first met Lesley about 14 years ago when I visited Much Birch Village Market for the first time. Coming from outside the village and not knowing anyone it was a lovely surprise when a lady called Lesley came up to me and asked if she could introduce me to anyone. We then sat and had a cup of tea and a piece of cake and chatted for ages.

We talked about the Women's Institute and I was invited to come along to the next meeting. Lesley was already a loyal member of the WI committee and helped to make me feel welcome when I turned up for the following meeting. Lesley stayed on the committee right up to the time we suspended our meetings last year.

After a couple more years I invited Lesley to come to St John's Methodist Church where I worship and this is what she did, becoming a member not long afterwards.

I remember Lesley as a friendly, loyal and caring person. She would make phone-calls, send cards to those with birthdays, leave a posy of flowers on a doorstep of someone not feeling too good, or in some cases drop off a cake just to put a smile on your face.

I don't know what other positions Lesley held within the village, but these are my memories.

I'm lucky that she came into my life and will be forever grateful. **Sallie Hopper**

Anne was the first Queen of the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1707, following the union between England and Scotland.

There have been 13 monarchs including Anne, George I, George II, George III, George IV, William IV, Victoria, Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI, Elizabeth II and Charles III

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## Passage Farm

Well, here we are at Passage Farm on the banks of the Severn, across the water from Newnham, It's a fabulous sunny day. This is our first time out since last October, and what a wet, cold miserable winter it was. We have seriously thought about selling our lovely second home several times, but now the sun is shining and we are here. So, no, I don't think there will be a sale for quite a while. How did we come to be here today, it was a toss-up between here or Martley, the result is obvious.

Once again, we had a lovely drive down, all thirty nine miles. We could see that there has been lots of rain from Gloucester down, loads of standing water in the fields, arrived at the site to be told to go to pitch three or four, ouch, that's on grass, I thought that we would be on the long gravel drive, however, we comply.

Drive up the track (hardcore) and come down the edge of the field, I comply, it's flat, but it feels very sticky, then it is sticky, and then I'm stuck, right opposite our pitch. Now what? The boss lady comes over and says that she has matting to go under the wheels. Then we decide that as I'm already on the pitch we shall stay and worry about getting off on Thursday. It could all dry out by then.

We set up, have a snack and go for a walk up along the Severn, following signs across a few fields that are extremely wet. We end up in the village of Arlingham and get back to base, about 7837 steps later, at nearly 14.30.

The rest of the day we watched the man cutting grass on his sit on, read our books, drank tea, then walked around the nice pond that was there. Well there were four Mallard ducks, which makes me think that the females are nesting in the reeds, a pair of Canada Geese, a Coot and lots of little fish jumping. All very nice, but today's star attraction is the fabulous Muntjac! It just was there, just off the road. It was such a nice woody colour and so still that Doe thought it was a carving until I went to get the camera and it was gone. We then saw a hare, two squirrels and lots of wood pigeons

Day one almost done. **The two D's**

Our thirteen tog duvet was definitely the right duvet for the chilly night that we had. Our lawned site was white with frost when we surfaced. The sun was bright and the sky was really blue with no clouds. It took quite a while to warm up. We agreed yesterday that if the sun was shining today, we would have a lazy day on our site

Which is what we did. We were in full sun all day. At one point I took my folding chair and sat by the pond, trying to find where the Moorhen was nesting, sat for ages then gave up.

Doe joined me and brought some bread to feed the fish, we knew there were lots of fish but they were shy until I threw some bread into the water, five minutes later there were dozens to be seen feeding, but no big fish, but I'm sure they are there.

Back at the van for a cuppa and some reading. For the first time this year I had my shirt off, hopefully to catch some of the vitamin D that I'm supposed to need because I'm on vitamin D pills.

Snack lunch, more sun, more reading, listening to the birds, many sorts here but probably the most popular are the pigeons. I'm sure that they are continually talking to their partner that is sitting on the nest hatching out their eggs. Such devotion.

The legs have not moved much today, so it was time for a bike ride, all saddled up we set off around four for a short ride and to get some fresh air. We had cycled around here quite a lot last year so the aim is to find a new route.

So back up the road take a right to Overton and down Overton Lane to the edge of the Severn, to Framilode, then on to Frethern with a very old church that was closed and then back home. An easy eight and a half miles. I tell you, there are some amazing big houses on the route. I reckon there is so much history to be explored.

We did manage to move our van from the mud where we were stuck. The site owner came across with some carpet, put it under the wheel and we were away. We are now parked on the drive way at the top of our plot. Much better. If it rains we are safe.

My own personal master chef prepared our evening meal, which was very nice. It is amazing how fast it has become dark tonight. Let's hope for another sunny day tomorrow

That's all for today folks. **The two D's**

What a day this has been! It started to rain just around seven this morning and apart from a very brief spell this afternoon it hasn't really stopped. Not heavy rain, just enough to keep it miserable.

Doe and I had a stroll down to the river and back, paid our dues for three nights at £23 per night. I suppose that's about the going rate these days, £69.00. Strangely a few weeks ago we had four nights on a Haven resort in Poole for £49.00.

One thing about the rain, it has kept us at home and we have both finished our books, we have played games on the computer and played our new game of Rummikub, several times.

My master chef has performed miracles once again in the kitchen. We have not taken a TV with us for years; in fact we have removed the TV aerial from the roof. Dinner is finished it's 18.54, and it is still raining, if anything a lot harder than at any time today.

We have seen very little wildlife today except the occasional moorhen has ventured onto the mown site.

Apparently. two nights ago, the person who was on this pitch had seen six hares in the field alongside.

We did have new neighbours this afternoon, a big doubled wheel caravan and its tow car arrived and it was parked just where we got bogged down in. They have put up a big awning so they are here for a few days which will allow the ground to dry out. We were lucky that we moved yesterday.

Tomorrow morning, we will leave this site and head for home, all 39 miles away, so this is my last report **The two D's**



## Diary Dates April

**Coronation Lunch** Sun 7th May LBVH p1

**MBPC Meeting** May 11th MBVH p7

**Coronation Community Café** Sat 13th May MBCH p1

**Coffee & Books** Sat 20th LBVH **p10**

**Repair Café Sat 20th May p5**

**Flicks in the Sticks** Thurs 25th May p2

**Garden Club** Wed 31st May p11

**Watermills Talk** Thurs 15th June LBVH p2

**Duchy Walk** Thurs 22nd June LBVH p2

**Tiddlers and Toddlers** Fridays 9.30-11.30 MBCH

**Table Tennis** 1st Tuesday 7-9pm LBVH

## Advertising Rates

11 editions per year (no August newsletter)

1/16 page £3.50 per issue or £35 per year

1/8<sup>th</sup> page £4.00 per issue or £40 per year

¼ page £4.50 per issue or £45 per year

½ page £8 per issue or £80 per year

Payment by BACS through Santander

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## Defibrillator Locations

### IN A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 999

AEDs available to use locally for those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. A defibrillator is an easy to use, medical device that analyses the heart's rhythm and, if needed, delivers an electrical shock (defibrillation) to help the heart establish an effective rhythm.

**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



**Steiner Academy, Much Dewchurch, Hereford HR2 8DL**

**Saturday 27 May 2023 2pm**

**Tickets: Adult £12 Child £6 Family £30**

**Box Office: 01981 440221**



