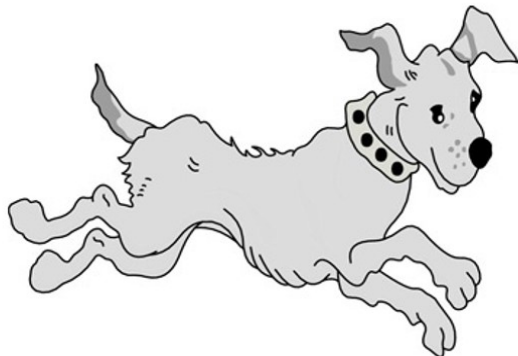


Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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

September 2016. First published 1977.



Little Birch Village Hall

Barrack Hill, Little Birch,
Hereford HR2 8AZ

Companion Dog Show

(Held under Kennel Club rules)
(Judge Sue Whitehead)

Sunday September 11th. 2016

Venue:

Castle Nibole Farm

(Signposted from King's Thorn Bus Shelter)

In Village Hall if wet

Entries from 1p.m. Judging from 2p.m.

Enquiries-call Robyn Hodges 01981 540264

Refreshments available

Diary Dates

September

- 3rd Garden Club Open Show LBVH
- 11th Companion Dog Show Nibole Farm
- 13th Whist Drive LBVH
- 13th Evergreen Club outing
- 16th Panto Auditions LBVH 7.30pm
- 17th Book Exchange Methodist Chapel
- 17th Table Top Sale MBCH
- 18th Panto Auditions LBVH 3pm
- 20th Much Birch WI MBCH

October

- 18th Much Birch WI MBCH
- 21st Illustrated Talk MBCH

It's that time of year again!

**The Little Birch Village Hall Panto
in February 2017 will be:**

"Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves"

For further details see page 3

Church Services in September

Sun 4th.	11am LBirch CW Communion
Sun 11th.	09.15 MBirch Family Communion
	11am LBirch Morning Worship
Sun 18th	09.15 MBirch CW Communion
	11am LBirch BCP Communion
Sun 25th	09.15 MBirch Morning Worship



Table Top Sale

Much Birch Community Hall Management Committee will be holding a Table Top Sale in the Community Hall on Saturday, 17th September 2016 at 10.00am until 12.30pm. Applications for a table should be made to John Jones tel: 01981 540980. When booked beforehand the cost will be £5.00 per table but if booked on the day it will be £6.00 and will be subject to availability.

Proceeds for the Hall Development Fund.

The Email for news entries into this Newsletter has changed.

Please send copy for the October 2016 Newsletter to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to John Bryant at Bramley Bungalow, Aconbury Close, King's Thorn.

—by 18th September please.

Local News



Very good news to start this month as Chris Ryan and Dr. Mike Davies completed their cycle ride from Lands End to John O' Groats in very good time and raised over £5,000 for the Little Princess Trust based in Hereford. What a marvellous result! Many congratulations!

We are sad to have said farewell to Margaret Smithett of King's Thorn. Sadly, her husband Robin died some 18 months ago but Margaret continued working for English Heritage at Goodrich Castle and retired a few months ago. She has moved to Lincolnshire to be nearer the family and we wish her well in her new home, she was a very good neighbour.

We welcome the Roblin family to King's Thorn, with Huw and wife, Felicity and their 3 sons, Dylan and twins, Owen and Theo. The boys were already pupils at Much Birch School but Dylan has moved on to John Kyrle School. We trust that the family will soon settle into their new home and make new friends, although they already know several families in this community.

A very warm welcome is also given to Hilary and Bernard Smallwood who have moved into Wynds Point in King's Thorn and we hope Hilary finds life a little bit easier in their bungalow.

Hearty congratulations go to Harriet Chapman of Kings Thorn who recently graduated in Medicine and is now a junior doctor at the Royal Hospital Glamorgan.

Congratulations are also extended to Emily Roberts, the second daughter of John and Lynette who was married to Lee Davies from the Forest of Dean on July 2nd and to Fern Gwinnett, daughter of Janet and Murray Gwinnett of the Barrack Hill and Richard Needham from Manchester who were married on Sat. August 6th. at Little Birch Church. We wish both couples a long and happy life together.

Sadly, we have lost 2 well known members of our community recently.

Harry Meredith of Much Birch, passed away on 19th. June at the age of 77 years.

His funeral service was held at Much Birch Church on 30th. June conducted by Rev Mark Johnson. The tribute was given by Mr. George Snell of Treberva Fruit Farm from which these notes are gratefully acknowledged.

Harry was born in Llanwarne in 1938 and after schooling at



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AUDITIONS

Little Birch Village Hall Panto 2017

Cast and Crew needed for Little Birch Panto to be staged 3rd and 4th February 2017

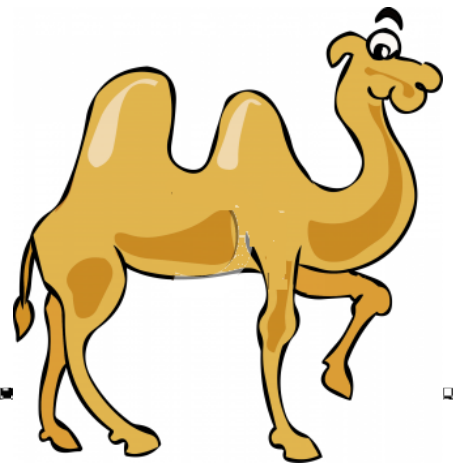
The next production will be

Ali Baba and The Forty Thieves



**Auditions will be held at Little Birch Village Hall on:
Friday 16th September at 7:30pm
And
Sunday 18th September at 3pm**

**For further details contact Tim
on 07930 960903**



Pencoyd, attended secondary school in Ross. His first job was with a Mr. Phillips at Three Ashes Farm. In 1963, he married Valerie and came to work for Mr. Geoff Snell in 1967. George said that his father had made a very wise decision as both Val and Harry proved an invaluable part of the workforce and continued to work on the farm until their retirements and even beyond. He was extremely proud of his family and their achievements. He was very supportive of his children, Sharon, Alan and Darren with grandchildren Carla, Meg, Dan, Lucy and Harry. He was also great grandfather to Freddy, Betsy, Albert and Bobby. He was always willing to help with their house renovations and kept them well supplied with fresh vegetables. Harry enjoyed watching cricket at Harewood End and a pint in the pub afterwards.

Much of his work at Treberva involved driving lorries and farm machinery and George's son Nick's earliest memories of Harry were riding with Darren in the lorry hauling fruit between the farms. His driving always impressed Nick and his navigation from city to city delivering fruit to market without a map. Equally impressive was his driving through the night to make deliveries and then turning up for work after only a few hours sleep.

There were occasional mishaps along the way. He once briefly blocked the A49 whilst turning down a narrow lane by the Red Lion towards Peterstow. In true Harry spirit he ignored the horn blowing and arm waving and continued to execute a 10 point turn, enlarging the turn off in the process.

Harry was always very easy to work with, he had good ideas, was patient, humorous, and had a very friendly nature. These characteristics made him very approachable and dependable. In the workshop, he could make or repair just about any implement or machine.

There may have been a few Health and Safety oversights, such as replacing fuses with nails, but he would always get the job done even if it meant working into the night.

Tidyness or lack of it was Harry's one failing and the farm workshop was always a sea of dropped spanners, tools and nuts and bolts. His own shed was even worse, with bits of machinery parts stacked to the eaves, which 'might come in handy one day' as Harry would say.

The exact opposite must be said of his garden, not a weed to be found and rows of splendid vegetables.

In his retirement, he continued to maintain a keen interest in the farm and was always happy to run errands for the

business especially to local fruit growers. In the last few years, he mastered using an 'i pad' and thoroughly enjoyed perusing E bay.

On the farm, Harry's sense of humour and fun will remain which made repetitive work so much more easy to get through.

In conversation with his neighbour Jean one day, a peacock happened to stroll down the farm drive. "Where on earth did that come from?" said Jean and quick as a flash Harry said " it must have got off the bus". That was Harry through and through.

We have all lost a very dear friend but how fortunate we have been to have known him.

Donations in memory of Harry were collected for the British Lung Foundation and Much Birch Church and we send to Val, Sharon, Alan and Darren and their families our deepest sympathies.

The whole local community was shocked to hear of the passing of Selby Lloyd on July 3rd at the age of 72 years.

Selby was born in Aberbargoed in the Rhymney Valley in South Wales in 1944. His father was a miner and he had no desire to work in the mines and so went to Agricultural College instead. After College, he found work at Castle Nibole Farm in Little Birch. This is how he met Iris as she lived in a cottage just below the Castle Inn. Iris and Selby married in 1963 and celebrated their Golden Wedding with a party in Little Birch Hall with the family and many friends.

Selby enjoyed the simple pleasures of life including crib and whist, reading and watching sport, especially Liverpool Football Club and of course being a passionate Welshman, his beloved Welsh Rugby Team. He loved his family first and foremost and was especially proud of his grandchildren, Rebecca, James and Josh.

It would be an understatement to say that Selby enjoyed his gardening, he just lived for it especially in the growing

Herefordshire Rural Hub

CIC is a business support organisation for farming and rural businesses across

Herefordshire. Established in 2005, the Hub has grown from strength to strength and now has a reach to over 1,500 rural businesses.

Herefordshire Rural Hub has a history of being able to 'pull' support organisations together to work as a network for the greater good of the local businesses and farming community. You can follow the Herefordshire Rural Hub on **twitter** via **@Hfds_RuralHub** and on **Facebook** search **Herefordshire Rural Hub**. Website www.ruralhubpartnership.co.uk/herefordshire

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Herefordshire



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season and was very generous with plants for the Gardening Club funds and to friends. He would spend hours perusing seed catalogues and then entering the Gardening Club Show at Little Birch Hall where he won many cups and trophies over the years. He recently discovered the internet and spent hours researching what to feed his onions on in order to beat Derek Scrivens. One of his proudest moments was winning the best in Show for his chrysanthemums and last year won the Harold Salisbury Shield for the best collection of 6 different vegetables.

In retirement, Iris and Selby enjoyed many holidays abroad and especially touring France and its many vineyards with the late Hilary and Rob Gould.

Selby and Iris both liked to be involved in the local community helping with fetes and numerous shows at Little Birch Village Hall. They both performed in the annual pantomimes but Selby enjoyed in helping to build the sets and scenery where his talent for woodworking came to the fore.

Selby could be seen daily walking his beloved cocker spaniel, 'Blodwyn' around the village lanes where he met

and chatted to many friends and neighbours and dishing out treats from his pocket to any dog they happened to meet.

Mandy and Vanessa remember Selby as a great messer. He would spend hours in the garden attempting to play badminton with them but unfortunately always appeared to have a 'big hole' in the middle off his racquet. Another fond memory was the annual water fight which was normally instigated and won by Selby with so many 'tricks up his sleeve'. One year, Mandy retaliated by sewing up his pyjama bottoms but Selby had the last laugh. He put holly in her bed that night and the screams could be heard all over the village.

Selby liked to make homemade wine and would come home from his night shift at Rotherwas and begin to bottle his wine. When Vanessa and Mandy came down to breakfast before school, a glass would be handed to them with the question "What do you think of this girls?"

Selby's health has not been good over the last few years but it is a testament to his strength, determination and positive attitude which has kept him going. He recently started to help the sisters at Much Birch Convent in their garden. This gave him much enjoyment and satisfaction. He loved working there and was shown great kindness by the Sisters.

The Church at Little Birch was absolutely full for Selby's funeral service which was testament in itself to the high regard in which he was held. The Service was conducted by Rev. Mark Johnson and the grandchildren all took part and Vanessa gave the tribute prepared by the family from which these notes are taken.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Cardiac Care Unit at the County Hospital for the outstanding care given to Selby and the kindness shown to Iris, Vanessa and Mandy over a traumatic and stressful few weeks.

Donations in Selby's memory were given to the Cardiac Care Unit and Little Birch Church.

Selby was a good neighbour as the writer of these notes knows only too well as when I was laid up for 3 weeks with a bad back in 1978, Selby came over the garden fence and mowed our lawns twice without being asked.

Selby enjoyed many happy hours at the Castle Inn playing cards, having a meal or a pint of traditional ale or two and the family invited everyone to join them at the Castle to raise a glass to Selby and enjoy the excellent food that was provided.

As a postscript, Iris and the family would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all our wonderful friends, neighbours and dog walkers for all their kindness, donations and cards. We are all overwhelmed! What a tribute to Selby who we all miss so very much. A 'thank you' to Sue and Di for being there and also to Emily for the lovely cakes she made. To the Castle Inn for the food provided and their kindness. We hope you will all continue to support Joseph and his lovely family at the Castle. A special thank you to Colin and Jean Quinsey and Abbotsfield for making such a difficult time more bearable. How lucky we are to live in such a caring community! God Bless you all, Iris.

Several of our residents have been in hospital recently or received hospital treatment and we send to them all our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



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On Thursday 6th. October 2016
At The Town Hall, Hereford
From 10a.m. to 12 noon

All are most welcome to this important fundraiser to protect our priceless heritage of churches in the county

Cakes, preserves and produce.
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If you are unable to attend donations would be very welcome

For this and further information contact:
Mrs. Jill Gallimore
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King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

Our Annual Open Show takes place on Sat. 3rd. September and this is open to everyone who would like to enter any Class but particularly children. The Hall opens at 9am for entries to be staged and closes for last entries at 10.45am. Hall closes promptly at 11am for Judging to commence. Hall opens again at 2pm. for public viewing. 3.45pm Presentation of Trophies and Draw for the Raffle. followed by Sale of Produce.

The Children's Workshop takes place on Friday, 2nd September at 4.30pm at the Hall. Guidance will be given in the creation of vegetable animals and monsters and gardens on a plate for the Children's Section. Classes are divided by age, Less than Aged 8 on the day of the Show and aged 8 to 13 years on the day of the Show.

Show schedules are available from Committee members, at the Castle Inn, the Surgery, the Axe and Cleaver or Pengethley Nurseries.

On Wednesday, Sept. 28th, our speaker will be Mr. Brian Skeys who will discuss the 'Wild style of gardening from William Robinson to Piet Oudolf. Meetings commence at 7.30pm. in Little Birch Village Hall. John Bryant- 01981 540316

Much Birch WI

Much Birch WI meets on the third Tuesday of each month in Much Birch Community Hall, just off the A49. The Hall is next door to the surgery and both are signed from the road.

Our **September** speaker, Richard Jordon, will tell us about 'The Legend that is ... Glen Miller'.

On October 18th we hear about Hereford Gaol from Judy Stevenson.

Also, on the first Friday in October, 7th, we hold the annual WI Quiz for local groups. It is a really fun evening, enjoyed by all. We like to put in two teams so please consider letting Caroline or Sallie know if you are available either at the next meeting or beforehand, if you are really keen and don't want to be left out!

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome.

Please contact Caroline on 01981 540422 or Sallie on 01432 340069 for further details.



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Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	6pm - Finish	
Thursday	12pm - 3pm	6pm - 11pm
Friday	12pm - 3pm	6pm - 11pm
Saturday	12pm - Finish	
Sunday	12pm - 9pm	

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Newsletter Advertising rates from Jan 1st. 2017

1/16th page	£3.50 per issue or £35 per annum
1/8th page	£4.00 per issue or £40 per annum
1/4 page	£4.50 per issue or £45 per annum
1/2 page	£8.00 per issue or £80 per annum

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Send advertising copy to
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Little Birch Hall Management Committee and send to
Mrs. R. Hodges, 'Wendover' King's Thorn,
Hereford, HR2 8AU

Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for September 2016

Little Birch Annual Companion Dog Show

Held under Kennel Club rules

The annual companion dog show will be held on **Sunday 11th September** in the field below Castle Nibole Farm (Village Hall if wet)

Entries from 1pm
Judging from 2pm

For enquiries, please contact **Robyn** on **01981 540264**

Whist Drive

We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company at our monthly whist drive whatever your ability. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.



Our next **Whist Drive** is on **Tuesday 13th September** 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 17th September** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12pm**.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable 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".

A warm welcome, tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided and we look forward to meeting up with regular and new visitors to the Book Exchange.

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Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan update

September 2016

The parishes of Aconbury and Little Birch are developing a joint Neighbourhood Development Plan. This plan will be a locally prepared document to guide decisions on land use and development within the two parishes giving us all a greater say. It will provide landowners and developers a clear understanding of what is (and is not) acceptable in terms of future development. They will have to take the plan into account if they want planning permission for their projects.

Work on the plan is now well under way with a great deal of work already completed including:

- The appointment of our Planning Consultant Dr David Nicholson
- Successfully applying for the first round of grant funding
- Information days at various community events
- Creating a questionnaire

Our steering group meetings are well attended, everyone from the two parishes is very welcome to attend and there is no obligation to attend every meeting.

Hopefully by the end of September every home in the two parishes will have received hand delivered questionnaires which will cover subjects such as new housing, the local economy and protecting the environment.

If you would like to find out more about the Neighbourhood Development Plan or be added to the steering group mailing list please contact:

Mrs Sophie Glover 01432 270499 (Office hours only please) or littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Or visit the Little Birch Parish Council website: www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

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Careline is a 24-hour personal emergency response service, based in Hereford, which is connected to your home through an alarm unit linked to your telephone line. In times of need, help is just the push of a button away!

Our alarms are connected to our friendly operators who are on hand to answer your calls instantly and get you the help you need. The service helps people to continue to live independently in their own homes. We have lots of products to choose from including pendants, watches and sensors.

The Careline service can cost you as little as 58p per day. In addition, we can also offer you our Mobile Responder Service, a personal onsite visit when you activate your Careline alarm - for an additional 36p per day.

For more information please speak to our Careline team

on 01432 384100.

Herefordshire Careline is run by the Independence Trust, part of the Herefordshire Housing Group.

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The August draw took place on 14th August 2016 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30 am and the results were as follows:

1st prize – No 41 2nd prize - No 44 3rd prize—No 73

Mr. J. Hounsell Ms. R. Wilson Mr. K. Davies

Much Birch Much Birch Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 11th September 2016 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones—Promoter

ILLUSTRATED TALK

Following the very successful and enjoyable evening with Penny Platts in October 2014, Penny has agreed to follow up with another illustrated talk on 'The History of the Market Towns in Herefordshire' on Friday 21st October 2016 in Much Birch Community Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £10 each to include a finger buffet and are available from Coline Grover tel: 01981 541140 and Sylvia Jones tel: 01981 540980. There will be a Bar and a Raffle. Proceeds are for Much Birch Church and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Onside is a local registered charity

supporting vulnerable adults across Herefordshire. We provide support to vulnerable adults and recruiting more volunteers helps us provide support in advocacy.

We have been around for 20 years and currently support 3000 vulnerable adults. Volunteers play a vital role in supporting vulnerable adults and we are looking to recruit volunteers across Herefordshire but especially in the rural areas.

Kind regards
Claire Watkins
Volunteer Manager



Onside

Williamson House, 14 Charles Street, Worcester WR1 2AQ

Telephone: 01905 27525

Mobile: 07592 737303

Email: Claire.watkins@onside-advocacy.org.uk

Web: www.onside-advocacy.org.uk

Please note my working days are: Monday - Friday

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The Evergreen Club

Our final trip of the year will be on **Tuesday, 13 September**.

We are going to the Wildlife and Wetlands Centre at
Slimbridge in the morning followed by the Nature in Art
Gallery in the afternoon.

**Cost £21 - (£23 for visitors) which includes entry to both
venues.**

The pick up times will be:

Brandon Coach Depot	8.45
The Park, Wormelow	8.55
Kings Thorn bus shelter	9.05
Much Birch Church bus stop	9.10
Axe & Cleaver bus stop	9.15
Peterstow (Broome Farm lay-by)	9.25
Fontaine Court - Ross	9.35

For enquiries or to book, please ring Bridget on **01981
540932**

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Supporting ourselves to support others

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Thurs 20th October: 2 – 5pm: Let Nature be your Guide

Mon 21st November: 10am – 1pm: All you have to do is
Dream

Fri 20th January 2017: 10am – 1pm: Music, Music, Music

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South Hereford Rural Police Briefing



Latest updates

I am back! Sorry I have been gone for so long. You will be receiving monthly news letters from now on.

It has been all change here at South Wye Station, PC Jim Phillips, PCSO Harley Youngs and PCSO Christopher Yarwood Have joined the team. PCSO Jonathan Owen and PCSO Hayley Cohen have started a new role in Business and Cyber crime and no longer work as part of South Wye SNT. I am sure you are all with me in wishing them all well.

Many members of the team are now trained to use the Speed Guns. If you have a particular stretch of road you are concerned about, please let us know and we will carry out an assessment.

7 of us from South Wye station are taking part in the Global Corporate Challenge which lasts 100 days. We will be in effect, walking around the world in 100 days. We are 19 Days in (13/06/2016) and we are currently in 2nd in the force and 143rd in the competition. There are a total of 48656 teams in the competition from all around the world and there are 129 teams from Warwickshire and West Mercia Police. We are doing very well and plan to be number 1 in the force very soon. Wish us luck! **#teamsouthwyecops**

Kind regards

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT West Mercia Police
If you would like to receive this Briefing via email, please email herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



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Your team

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

About your team

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods.

Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us - in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

Several members of the community have received 'Scam' calls recently claiming to be from their bank. The advice is to put the phone down, wait a few minutes and then call the Action Fraud line on 0300 123 2040.

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

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

14th June 2016

PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd June at the Much Birch Community Hall.

The Meeting heard that an Event to re-launch the Neighbourhood Plan would be held on Tuesday 5th July, from 7.00pm, in the Much Birch Community Hall. Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive of HALC, would be in attendance to give a presentation and refreshments would be served. A flyer would be coming out to publicise the Event. All are welcome and it was hoped that as many people as possible would come along to find out more about the important work of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and what it involves.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 7th July 2016 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

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A reminder that:-

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

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

Cllr Steve Turner (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com and Tel. 01981 540090

Cllr Andrew Crum Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail a.crum@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 540002

Cllr Tim Jones Swiss Cottage, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW e mail tjsj@me.com Tel. 01981 540242

Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX roisinburge@hotmail.com Tel. 01981 540724

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>