# The Birches

**Community Matters Newsletter** 

Kingsthorn, Much Birch, Little Birch, Aconbury & Wormelow September 2025





Birches Newsletter online: www.birches.news & www.muchbirchparish.org.uk





Come and help us tidy up the well-loved churchyard on Saturday 27th September from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon. We have lots of small jobs that are waiting for willing hands! Please come along and help keep this churchyard tidy.

## Children's Garden Show Workshop, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 4pm

Bring your children to Little Birch Village Hall to make a monster from vegetables for the Show next day, create a garden on a plate, or a picture using leaves. Older children can decorate a cup cake or any garden item, make an object from natural material, or submit a painting or drawing of any garden subject, nature, wildlife or landscape. Prizes include money and trophies.



#### Little Birch Fete

We held the annual Little Birch Church Fete on Saturday 19th July at Castle Nibole Farm. The weather was kind this year, no threat of the rain and wind we had last year – but also, very fortunately, not the unbearable heat of this summer on the day.

This year we decided to run a fun dog show – not having any idea of whether it would prove popular or not! We need not have worried - we had fabulous entries and lots of dogs strutted their stuff in front of our wonderful judge Jackey Williams, who was very ably assisted by Peter and Denise Rees.

We also had a very kind offer from Steve and Celina Coles to run a scurry for the dogs as well, they built the obstacles, mowed the course and set up the netting for us then ran it all afternoon, many thanks to them both. Again, lovely entries and some nailbiting runs with the winners and runners up times very tight.

We had the usual stalls and the bouncy castle, not to mention the super ladies on the refreshments! They were very busy all afternoon, many thanks to Helen Atkinson, Jane Bolam, Ellen Green, and to Claire Penrice – who spent all afternoon in the kitchen cooking the sausages and washing up!

Further thanks to those that set up and ran the stalls – Dr's Mike and Andrea Johnson, Chris Atkinson, Steve, Jacky and Steve Harris, Mel and Mark from Eden Lane and not forgetting Richard Green with his Wanging Wellies!! The church warden James Gould who manned the bouncy castle, Steve and Linda Turner in charge of the tombola and to the ever positive John and Jenny Caton who work so, so hard behind the scenes to make the fete such a success year after year. And there was yours truly rushing about trying to sell the ice creams and Pimms!

A huge thank you to those who came and enjoyed the afternoon, We raised £1419.70 for the ongoing repairs and maintenance of St. Mary's Church— a brilliant total.

It is the first time we have had a dog show at the fete. It was great fun and a tremendous success. Thanks to Jackie Williams for judging and Denise Rees for her assistance and also to everyone who helped set up and run the fete and dog show.

The fete is a local event that many look forward to. It is a village event where everyone is made so welcome, where people have the time to sit, enjoy a good chat and catch up over a cup of tea with old friends and where they can meet and get to know new ones too. It was so lovely that several people came and said they hoped we will continue to run this for our community – I do hope we can.

A big thanks to everybody who donated prizes, especially Sue at The Axe and Cleaver for the Sunday Lunch. Thanks to everybody who helped to set up and run the fete and dog show, to Allensmore Nurseries for plants and Jenny Caton for the splendid hamper. Thanks to everybody who donated cakes, books, bottles, jams, chutneys etc., much appreciated. The weather was perfect and a good time was had by all.

However, we are moving ..... finally! The new build has been a long one, but we will not be here next year. It is so lovely that there is such a clear message from those that supported us that this needs to continue for the village.

We need new people to come along, new ideas, new helpers, could you help? I know our community would fully support the Summer Fete in 2026! **Kate Dillon** 

# The Birches Community Quiz

Friday 3rd October 7.30pm Much Birch Community Hall

Teams of four are invited to take part. Entry £12 per team, includes refreshments. If you want to bring your own drinks, glasses are provided.

Proceeds to local charities

Please get in touch with Carole if you are interested in taking part. Email carole.chichester@btinternet.com telephone 01981 540095/07503



#### Short Mat Bowls at Little Dewchurch Village Hall

We will be starting our short mat bowling again on Tuesday 2nd

September, 7pm to 9pm, every Tuesday at Little Dewchurch Village Hall apart from the 3rd week of the month when it takes place on a Monday. First 3 weeks free trial, £5 a session after that. Includes tea and biscuits. Friendly and fun activity for the winter months! Contact John Caton: 01981 540415

**Photography Group Meeting** 

Fayre View, Little Birch Road, Kingsthorn
Saturday 18th October 10-12am
Anyone interested in photography is welcome.
sally.nichol@btinternet.com
tel 07803032928

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**Minds** registered charity has been set up by farmers for farmers to tackle mental health in the farming community within

Herefordshire.

#### We are Farming How can we help?

#### 24 Hour Support Line:

We run a FREE 24 hour Support Line 7 days a week for farmers and their families within Herefordshire who are feeling distressed and need someone to talk to anonymously.

#### Counselling:

We provide **fully funded counselling to anyone in the Herefordshire farming community** who may be in emotional distress.

#### Training:

We offer FREE mental health awareness training to anyone living or working in or with the farming community in Herefordshire.

#### **Social Events:**

We run a series of FREE social events throughout the **year** to break the isolation often felt by the farming community in Herefordshire.

#### Befriending:

Befriending volunteers offer companionship and support to people who are isolated and lonely – they may visit you at home and/or phone for a regular chat. A befriender can offer conversation and a listening ear to those that need it.



General enquiries: wearefarmingminds@gmail.com www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk







# Much Birch Community Hall

Much Birch Community Hall is available for hire to groups meeting regularly and for one-off individual events.

#### We can offer:

- A well appointed community hall in pleasant surroundings
- Superb kitchen facilities
- New cloakroom facilities Including accessible toilet
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- Disabled access to the front and rear of the building
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- Grassed area to the rear of the building
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For further information please contact the Secretary Sylvia Jones on 01981 540980 or email:

mbchsec@gmail.com

or visit the website:



www.muchbirchcommunityhall.org





Email: richard@actonbuilding.co.uk

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The Birches Newsletter is also available online www.birches.news www.muchbirchparish.org.uk

## Jobs for the Garden in September

Records continue to be broken with the hot dry weather and it has certainly been difficult to keep crops and flowers growing. I still find it hard to believe that the beautiful weather is with us, as I expected it to break up giving clouds and rain as soon as the schools broke up for the Summer holidays. It always seemed to when our sons were at school – barely remember my school days, it's so long ago!

It will be interesting again this year, to see what the produce and flowers will be like at the horticultural show. No matter whether or not you have exhibited before, find something in your garden within the schedule classes, and enter it. You may surprise yourself. Here a some jobs for the garden.

- \*Clean greenhouse and cold frame glass.
- \*Plant new perennials towards the end of the month.
- \*Water greenhouse plants in the morning now so plants don't spend all night sitting in cold water.
- \*Move house plants to a lighter position and reduce watering.
- \*Bulbs Daffodil, Scilla, Crocus and Hyacinths can be planted in borders and pots.
- \*Divide alpines
- \*Keep dead heading container and bedding plants container plants are probably in need of a liquid feed.
- \*Harvest Apples and Pears store unblemished fruits, with stalk intact in single layers, not touching, in a cool, dark, frost free and well ventilated location.
- \*Plant Autumn onion sets.
- \*Sow small quantities of salad leaves and radishes.
- \*Transplant Spring cabbage.
- \*Remove old leaves and straw from around strawberry plants. Plant new plants in fresh ground and keep well watered. **Derek Scrivens**

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#### Little Birch Village Hall Committee June 2025

Lesley Chapman; Chair, John Ellis -Braithwaite; Treasurer, Linda Maden; Booking Secretary, Kate Dillon; Parish Council Rep, Geoff Nichol; Maintenance, Iris Lloyd, Rick Hampton, Jane Bolam; Drama Group, Elisabeth Taylor; Birches Newsletter Editor, Cathy Ellis-Braithwaite; Minute Secretary, Sam Davies.

#### **Little Birch Parish Councillors**

Cllr Steve Coles Cllr Tom Palfrey Cllr Chris Atkinson Cllr Nick Deacon Neil Barrington, clerk lbpcclerk@gmail,com

Website www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

# **Little Birch Parish Facebook Group**

Find news, events & business listings. Promote your business, advertise a local event or post news & information of interest to the village & local area.



Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AW,

email: thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703 Cllr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch

HR2 8AX email: roisinburge@hotmail.com

Tel. 01981 540724

Cllr Chris Pickering-Grey 4 Court Farm Barns, Much Birch HR2 8HT chris@pickering-grey.uk Tel. 07712 813218

Cllr Michael Agyeman Little Willow, Wrigglebrook,

Kingsthorne, Hereford, HR2 8AU

email: magyeman92@gmail.com Tel. 01981 540840

Cllr David Irwin David.Irwin13@btinternet.com

Tel. 07766 135068

Clir Steve Turner The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, Tel. 07768 206296 email: turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com Dates for the forthcoming meetings are advised as follows: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, no meeting in August, September 4<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk: Mrs Alison Wright: muchbirchclerk@gmail.com
Much Birch Footpath Officer: David Irwin on
MBfootpaths@btinternet.com Tel. 07766 135068
Full minutes of the meetings etc. can be found on the Parish
Council website following the linkwww.muchbirchparish.org.uk.

#### **Footpath Officers**

If you have any queries about footpaths contact:

**Little Birch and Aconbury** 

Chris Fowler <a href="mailto:chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk">chrisfowler1@hotmail.co.uk</a>
07931 292998

Much Birch including Kingsthorne:

David Irwin david.irwin13@btinternet.com

07766 135068

Much Birch Facebook Page
It is not just about lost and found cats and dogs, missing deliveries etc.
You'll find a wealth of information here so Join Today!

Table Tennis 7-9pm

1st Tuesday of the month

Little Birch Village Hall All welcome
7-9pm £3, includes refreshments
For more information contact Sally
01981 540001 or 07803032928

or email sally.nichol@btinternet.co.uk

#### **Get Some Art in!**

Hi Everyone,

I hope that during each day you find a little time to appreciate some art. It may be something as simple as looking at a picture on your living room wall or looking out from your window at the sunset.

It is these simple moments that can bring us a time of calm and reflection in an otherwise busy and hurrying world that is always keen to get on to the next thing. In my email inbox, every day, up pops an email from Christian Art (www.christian.art). It is a brief email that includes a picture of a piece of art, a Bible reading and a reflection from a Roman Catholic priest who, prior to his ordination, worked as an art historian and auctioneer. The pictures are of a whole range of things, from altar pieces to modern-day sculptures, from ancient amulets to digitally manipulated images.

For me, it shows two things. Firstly, it helps to reveal the link between a Bible passage and a piece of art, and as such, points to something deeper, more truthful about God and his relationship with humanity.

And secondly, it reminds me that we always need to create, to be creative, to find a way of expressing the human condition through words, pictures, and sculptures. It gives me a few moments to think and reflect, and be renewed. I

hope you might find it useful too. Revd Mark

#### **Services for September 2025**

Sunday 7th September 9.15 a.m. at Much Dewchurch Church – Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. at Little Birch Church – Holy Communion

Sunday 14th September – Holy Cross 9.15 a.m. at Much Birch Church – Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. at Little Birch -Church - Morning Worship

Sunday 21st September – St. Matthew 9.15 a.m. at Much Birch Church – Morning Worship

11.00 a.m. at Little Birch Church – Holy Communion in

**Traditional Language** 

Sunday 28th September -

9.15 a.m. at Llandinabo Church – Holy Communion in Traditional Language Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity





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# **Calling all Book Lovers**

Coffee Morning with Book Exchange
Little Birch Village Hall
Thursday 4th & Saturday 20th September
10-12 noon

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee & cake or biscuits. Make new friends, catch up with old friends. Take a book, leave a book or both. Families and well behaved dogs welcome.

# Book of the month is Counting the Stars by Helen Dunmore

For Catullus, the brilliantly witty and outrageous young Roman poet and Clodia, his older, married lover, a borrowed villa in Rome is a secret, illicit meeting place. Catullus burns with desire for 'his girl' while Clodia goes her own way among his rivals. Other passions simmer in the heat: the streets threaten to erupt in political violence, hearts sour and contemplate murder, and love and hate are dangerously entwined.

And while you're here, why not stay to have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat? We sit around and discuss anything, from local news to world affairs. Come and join us - All are welcome.



## Little Birch Village Hall

available for hire for private events.

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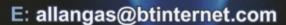
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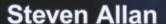
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refreshments. For more information contact Sally 01981 540001 or 07803032928 or email sally.nichol@btinternet.co.uk

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Access the online version by using one of the links www.birches.news www.muchbirchparish.org.uk



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# Join us at the Community Café @ Much Birch Community Hall

Saturday 13 September 2025

10:00 - 12:30

and every 2nd Saturday of the month

11 October

8 November

13 December



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



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





# at Much Birch Community Hall

#### Thursday 18 September -THE PENGUIN LESSONS 12A

Starring Oscar nominee Steve Coogan, this poignant dramedy from director Peter Cattaneo follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

#### Tickets £5 (£4 under 16s)

Refreshments including hot dogs and ice cream available from 7pm

#### Other dates this season:

Thursday 16 October Thursday 13 November Thursday 11 December

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 or call 01981 540097

For further information about films and screenings visit www.artsalive.co.uk



# **Diary Dates September 2025**

Birches Community Quiz	p2
Bowls	p2
Music Night	<b>p1</b>
Children's workshop	<b>p1</b>
Photography group	p2
Table Tennis	p6
Coffee & Books	p8
Community Cafe MBCH	p10
Flicks in the Sticks	p10

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness

**p7** 

**Church Services** 





#### **Advertising Rates**

11 editions per year (no August newsletter) 1/16 page £4.20 per issue or £42 per year

1/8<sup>th</sup> page £4.80 per issue or £48 per year

½ page £5.40 per issue or £54 per year

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Put your business name as reference

#### **Defibrillator Locations**

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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 Birch Axe & Cleaver on the side of the pub

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

