

The Birches

Community Matters Newsletter

Kingsthorpe, Much Birch, Little Birch,
Aconbury & Wormelow

March 2022 First published 1977



Community Spring Sing

Saturday 26 March 2022
2-5 pm

Much Birch Community Hall

Welcome in the Spring with a fun singing afternoon led by Kay Garlick. Open to all ages - children must be accompanied by an adult. No need to read music, just come along and enjoy a fun sing and a cuppa!
Free event - just turn up!

social fabric



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Lent Lunch is Back

After an absence of two years we are once again able to provide a Lent lunch. Come and join us at Little Birch Village Hall on the 25th March at 12.30 pm for a lovely selection of home made soups. All donations will go to **Sightsavers** international charity.

The Jolly Gardener
TheJollyGardener2502@gmail.com
Kyle - 07850921889



- * Senior Citizen Discount & Free Quotations
- * General Garden Duties
- * Small Landscaping Projects

Specialising in Patios and Stone Walling

Diary Dates on back page...Diary Dates on back page...Diary Dates on back page





Coffee Morning with Book Exchange

Thursday 3rd March

& Saturday 19th March

10.00am - 12.00 noon



Little Birch Hall

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, some cake or biscuit. 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

Diane Sayce

Many of you will remember Diane, who died in December of last year. A women with long roots in this area, she lived for many years at Lower Mill Cottage, just off the old Monmouth Road with her husband, David. After fixing up the rather run-down property in the late 1970's, they were joined by their two children Jo and Adam. Diane enjoyed working at Thorne Lighting, and St. Weonards' Primary School making the school dinners. She retired to care for husband David who died in 2009. She played darts in the local women's league for a number of years. She loved having her two grandchildren around and after moving out of Lower Mill Cottage for Jo and her family, moved to Croftbank, Kingsthorpe for the last years of her life. She passed away at St. Michael's Hospice from a recurrence of the cancer that had blighted her in 2018.

Reverend Mark



at Much Birch Community Hall

2 Borderlines Film Festival screenings in March

Tuesday 8 March - MOTHERING SUNDAY (15)

Josh O'Connor (The Crown, God's Own Country) stars with Odesa Young in Eva Husson's beguiling, sensual love story. Adapted from Graham Swift's novel by screenwriter Alice Birch it features a terrific extended cast including Olivia Colman, Colin Firth and Glenda Jackson. Henley, 1920s: young maid Jane (Young) works for the Nivens, a family devastated by their losses in the First World War. Jane is passionately and secretly in love with Paul (O'Connor), the sole surviving son from a neighbouring manor house – but Paul is engaged to be married to someone else. Years later, Jane, now an author, is living with another man in London and struggles as she begins a new novel that urges her to look to the past.

Thursday 10 March - RESPECT (12A)

Following the rise of Aretha Franklin's career from a child singing in her father's church to international superstardom, Respect tells the remarkable true story of a music icon's journey to find her voice. The film spans the turbulent 1960s, as we see her struggle with personal and political conflicts. Featuring the incredible Jennifer Hudson as Aretha Franklin, the film is an entertaining and compelling tribute to the legendary Queen of Soul. With brilliant performances from Forest Whitaker, Mary J. Blige and Tituss Burgess, this is a truly feel-good film about how Aretha transformed her adversity into artistry.

Refreshments including hot dogs available from 7pm

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

Tickets available in advance or on the door - 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 and www.borderlinesfilmfestival.co.uk

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

The Nightmare Bar and Events



We are a mobile bar set up on a semi permanent basis opposite the closed country pub The Castle Inn in Little Birch. Offering a range of cask ale and Draught products as well as a wide variety of hot and cold drinks.

Whether you want a quiet drink in our fairy light grotto or a good old chinwag with our friendly patrons, you can come and relax after that stressful week in one of our heated gazebos.

Let all worries float away in to the night sky because you and I know we all need it after the last two years. We welcome all here.

Saturday: 5pm till 10pm

National day of Reflection

23rd March 2022

Two years ago, almost to the day, the COVID19 lockdown started. This has brought us a wide range of emotions and events since. Some of us have revelled in lockdown, not needing to commute for hours each week, some of us have struggled because we have needed to care for others without a break – especially children off school, some of us have found reserves of love and strength that we did not know we had, others of us have found peace in unexpected places.

So why a day of national reflection? It is a chance for all of us to take some time out of the day just to remember. Perhaps it is to remember someone we have lost, or someone who gave us unexpected support. We might want to remember those in the NHS and key workers who kept things going. We might just want a few minutes of peace. Marie Curie, the charity which supports people around a terminal diagnosis, are encouraging people to use yellow as a colour of hope and new life, their symbol being a daffodil, at this time of the year.

Have a look for “National Day of Reflection” on your search engine and see what part you can play.

And, don't forget that you can light a candle in a window at 8pm. that evening as a sign to your neighbours that you are thinking and remembering them. **Reverend Mark**



TABLE TENNIS

The next meeting will be on Monday 28th February and not on the usual first Tuesday of the month. This is so as not to conflict with the traditional annual Pancake Evening being held on Tuesday 1st March.



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Services for March 2022

Wednesday 2nd March Ash Wednesday

10.30 am at Much Birch Church. Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 6th March First Sunday of Lent

11am Little Birch Church Holy Communion

Sunday 13th March Second Sunday of Lent

9.15 am at Much Birch Church. Family Communion

Sunday 20th March Third Sunday of Lent

9.15 am at Much Birch Church. Morning Worship

11am at Little Birch Church .Holy Communion

(Traditional Language)

Sunday 27th March Fourth Sunday of Lent

9.15 am at Llandinabo . Holy Communion



Jobs in the garden for March

Derek Scrivens



The end of January and first two weeks in February were virtually rain free and the ground was drying well. A few light frosts occurred otherwise it was unusually warm resulting in carpets of snowdrops flowering earlier than normal, crocuses and a few daffodils appeared as well. All a welcome sight. We repotted all of our indoor plants with fresh compost in February – a job normally done in March. We also repotted about a dozen amaryllis which the ‘book’ says should be done in October, however, they certainly look healthier now. At the time of writing – mid February - we have seedlings growing well in the greenhouse, cabbage, cauliflower, calabrese, leeks, broad beans, onions, tomatoes and a cucumber. I hope that the local slug population doesn’t think the greenhouse is a branch of McDonalds.

Here are a few ideas for March

Apply a general purpose granular fertilizer to hungry plants such as roses and clematis and fork in lightly. Lift and divide clumps of snowdrops as foliage yellows.

Pot up dormant dahlia tubers and canna rhizomes. Protect from cold but in good light – water sparingly.

Lift and divide Summer flowering perennials, particularly if the centre of the clump has become hard and woody with no signs of growth – this needs chopping out and burning or composting.

Dead head daffodils but leave foliage to die off naturally.

Sprout or ‘chit’ seed potatoes indoors, placing the potatoes in trays or egg boxes with the ‘rose’ end (small indentations from where spurts will emerge) uppermost.

Sow tomato seeds in pots in a propagator or on a window sill.

When the soil feels warm to the touch and is not saturated, Parsnip seeds can be sown.

When the soil has dried out sufficiently to walk on, if not already done, prepare trenches for Runner Beans, Peas and Sweet Peas. Put a good layer of manure or compost plus grass cuttings and vegetable peelings in the bottom and leave open to the elements until nearer planting time.

If you have potted up strawberry plants, grown from runners last year, they can be planted this month.

Mixed salad leaves and beetroot can be sown in cell or seed trays, even if you do not have a dedicated vegetable patch. Plant the seedlings in the flower border to add some interesting colour and then eat them when they mature.

This month is the start of the breeding season for our garden birds. If you have any waste wool, hair from brushes (your own or the dog), hang it on the branches of shrubs or wire fences, and leave strands of vegetation thatch which may be lying around the ground. Do not leave man made fibres around.

If you do not have nesting boxes, try putting any redundant metal, wooden or plastic containers at various heights in hedges, such that rain water cannot collect in them. One local man places 5 or 6 inch pots in his hedge and a pair of Robins nest in one most years. Keep bird tables and water baths clean.



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ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK UNDERTAKEN

Little Birch Parish Facebook Group



Find the latest news, events and business listings all in one place. You are welcome to promote your local business, advertise a local event or post news or information of interest to the village and surrounding area. Search for *Little Birch Parish Group* on Facebook

PARISH WALKS

Our last Parish walk was on Sunday 13 February. As it was raining, I shortened the walk from the planned 6.5 miles, and seven of us had a sheltered walk through Athelstans Wood, up to Little Birch church, and then back to the hall for tea and flapjack.

Little Dewchurch

Sunday 13 March at 1.45pm walking from Little Birch Village Hall down to near Little Dewchurch and back up through Merrivale Farm to the hall for tea etc. There are a number of stiles, green lanes, woodland paths, possibly muddy fields, farm tracks and a short road stretch. Approx 4.5 miles.

All welcome!

Advance notice for the popular -

Dawn Chorus Walk

Sunday 10 April at 5.45am at **Merrivale Farm**, Little Birch HR2 8BA walking to Athelstan's Wood - about 3 miles. No dogs please. Afterwards back at the farm for bacon butties/toast & marmalade and tea/coffee - with thanks to the Masons!

Donations at the farm to 'Farm Community Network' and 'WeAreFarmingMinds' - a local charity supporting mental health for farmers in Herefordshire.

All welcome!

Angela Middleton

Volunteer Footpath Officer

ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk or 01981 540377

Kings Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

At our AGM on March 30th the new program will be revealed and we will hear a short talk from Derek Scrivens, local gardening guru, with a lifetime of knowledge.

Meetings are in Little Birch Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have refreshments, time for a chat and usually a bring and buy stall for surplus plants etc. No charge for the first two meetings. we extend an open invitation to anyone who may be interested in one, some or all of our talks and activities. For further information phone Janet Gwinnett 01981 540651 and leave a message.

Much Birch

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

Come and Play!

Chat and fun for all

Snacks

Drink lots of Tea or Coffee!

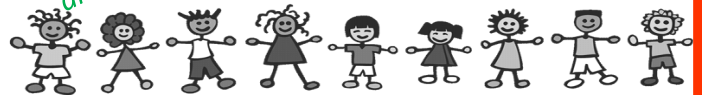
Crafty Activities

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Village Hall
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For more information please contact:
Karen 07817716137 or Lucy lcook8910@gmail.com

As I get older and remember all the people I've lost along the way, I think perhaps I wasn't the best tour guide.



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Join us at the
Community Café
@ Much Birch Community Hall

We were sorry to have to cancel January's café
but hope to be safe to go ahead in February

Saturday 12 March 2022

10:00 - 12:30

and continuing every 2nd Saturday of the month

9 April

14 May

11 June

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.

HISTORY GROUP TALK

The history group has organised a talk
about "How to research your ancestry
and how to find out about the history
of your house"

to be given by Rhys Griffith from the
Records and Archive Centre.

The talk will be on Thursday March
17th at 7.30 in Little Birch Village Hall.
Entry £2.50 to include refreshments

We look forward to seeing you.
Please think about other talks you
would be interested in. Write it on a
piece of paper and put in the box
provided at the talk

Little Birch Parish Facebook Group



Find the latest news, events and business listings all in one
place. You are welcome to promote your local business,
advertise a local event or post news or information of
interest to the village and surrounding area. Search for
Little Birch Parish Group on Facebook

Went out last night and had a pelican curry.
The food was all right, but the bill was huge!

Went to the zoo the other day, and saw a baguette in
a cage, I thought, hmm, "bread" in captivity. 🍞

The Axe & Cleaver Much Birch

Contact us at
01981 540 203 or
on our Facebook page.



THE PELLEAS ENSEMBLE (Harp, Viola & Flute Trio)

Concerts
for Craswall



19th March 2022 at 5pm

St. Michael's Church,
Michaelchurch Escley HR2 0JS
Further information and tickets

<https://concertsforcraswall.org/concerts/>
telephone 01981 510112

Rebecca Clarke	Songs
Sally Beamish	Between Earth and Sea
Debussy	Syrinx
Debussy	Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp
Dowland	Songs
Ethel Smyth	Variations on Bonnie Sweet Robin

Trouble with Footpaths? Contact numbers below if you have any footpath issues

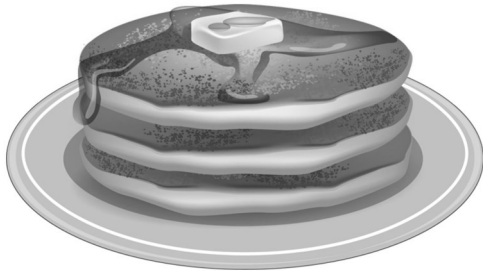
Aconbury - Mike Leigh 01981 540698

Much Birch including Kingsthorpe- Al Davies 07872 548440 or alanrcd@gmail.com

Little Birch - Angela Middleton 01981 540377 or ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk

Pancake Evening

LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 2022
5:30PM - 7:30PM



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Much Birch Community Hall Village Markets

The Management Committee has decided to continue holding quarterly Village Markets during 2022. The Committee would welcome any new stallholders and if anyone is interested please contact Sylvia Jones tel: 01981540980. The cost of each table is £5. It is hoped that the community will support the markets to make it worthwhile for the stallholders and to make it an enjoyable afternoon. Refreshments always available.

Markets 2pm until 4.30pm

Easter - 25th March

Summer - 24th June

Autumn - 23rd September

Christmas - 9th December



EASTER PRIZE BINGO

LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 1ST APRIL
EYES DOWN AT 7:30PM

Easter fun for the whole family
Refreshments available



My friend is always polite and
courteous when he builds
anything. He's a civil engineer.



Much Birch Parish Council

Parish Clerk Mrs Alison Wright
 Longfield House Gooses Foot, Kingstone Herefordshire HR2 9NE 01981 250860 Email: muchbirchclerk@gmail.com

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held in the Much Birch Community Hall on the 3rd February 2022 from 7.30 pm the Parish Council looked at three more planning applications for the parish and agreed on comments that would be sent to the Planning Department. The Parish Council also reviewed correspondence received and would be looking into the points raised about local issues.

The dates for the forthcoming meetings in the year 2022 are March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July 7, September 8, October 6, November 10 and December 8. No meeting in August.
 The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 3rd March 2022 from 7.30pm** at the Much Birch Community Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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


Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

- ClIrr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@wyenet.co.uk Tel. 01981 540703
- ClIrr Andrew Crum Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail a.crum@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 540002
- ClIrr Roisin Burge The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX roisinburge@hotmail.com Tel. 01981 540724
- ClIrr David Baldwin The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS baldwin79@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 541198
- ClIrr Chris Pickering-Grey 4 Court Farm Barns, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HT chris@pickering-grey.uk Tel. 07712 813218
- ClIrr Joseph Goldsmith Quantock House, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX josephgoldsmith@hotmail.com Tel.07967 728590


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>

Jubilee Beacon

We'll be building a beacon for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June—Just as we did for her Majesty's Golden Jubilee.



Watch out for more news of this in coming issues



How many Queen's Jubilees have there been? Answer on p 13

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LITTLE BIRCH VILLAGE HALL DRAMA GROUP

Now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted, the
committee are actively searching for any established or new
residents that would be interested in joining a team of
enthusiastic people to assist in putting on theatrical events.



We are looking for ALL disciplines – Actors, behind the scenes personnel, technical assistants,
set builders, front of house, wardrobe, prompts, Directors and even writers.

If you would like further information please contact either Jane Bolam (07508 345879), Bob
Barnett (07890 206201) or David Baldwin (07768 150150)



I asked the baker, "How come all your
cakes are 50p, but that one's £2?"
He said, "that's Madeira cake".

A poker player who lost his arm and got
a prosthetic replacement is finding it
hard to deal with.

Events at Hereford Cathedral

Lockdown with Bach Friday 4, Tuesday 8, Tuesday 15, Thursday 17, Tuesday 22 & Tuesday 29 March , 1.15pm Peter Dyke, will give six short recitals from Book 2 of Bach's 48 Preludes and Fugues on the grand piano in College Hall **Tickets £5**

Chorister Open Morning Saturday 12 March, 10 to 11am (with registration from 9.30 am)

The Chorister Open Morning will give children and their families an opportunity to learn about the life of a cathedral chorister, meet members of the cathedral's music department and hear the choristers sing. Free of charge but advance booking essential.

To register for a place, or for further information, please call Geraint Bowen on 01432 374 238 or email organist@herefordcathedral.org

Medieval Colour Talk by Dr Rosemary Firman- Wednesday 16 March, 7pm

In medieval times colour was a luxury and its production labour intensive and expensive. There are still traces of medieval colour in the cathedral, but in the pages of illuminated manuscripts the colours still blaze.

Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased via the cathedral website: www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/medieval-colour2022 or by calling 01432 374 225/6

Stitch from History - full day textile workshop Friday 18 March, 10am – 4pm Taking inspiration from the objects and designs in the current exhibition 'All Things Bright', make a brooch, a bag charm or other accessory using your choice of threads, fabrics and embellishments. **Tickets cost £50 and can be purchased via the cathedral website:**

www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/stitch-from-history or by calling 01432 374 225/6

Spring Garden Opening Friday 25 March, 10am – 3pm. Explore the beautiful gardens of the cathedral and see all of the hard work that has been undertaken by our volunteer gardeners. **Tickets £5**
www.herefordcathedral.org/Event/spring-garden-opening2022

Medieval Bookbinding Talk by Arthur Green- Wednesday 30 March, 7pm Book conservator and bookbinder Arthur Green will talk about his work. He will bring examples of his work to explain the craft and its historic context. **Tickets £10**

As I write, the tail end of storm Eunice is rumbling through the trees in Aconbury. My barometer has moved from Stormy to Rain so it is blowing over. I hope you were not affected by it beyond the short power cuts that many of us had. Spring is on its way with snowdrops, celandines, aconites and daffodils brightening our days.

Do you have a story to tell, an event to share or ideas about what you would like to see in the newsletter? We would love to hear from you.

Best wishes

Elisabeth Taylor and the Newsletter Team

Check out all the great things happening!

Diary Dates on the back page



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Alison Allan is back!

I have been Zooming away in the summer but am now back at Little Dewchurch

Social distancing is a must and we can do this with 10 people per class – which means I can keep my eye on everyone!

Rollers, soft balls and circles makes for a varied and fun workout whatever our ability.

After our Lockdown Blues we all need to get moving with Pilates for our physical well-being and our mental health - and while we do this, we will improve our posture, balance, strength and general fitness.

My clients are aged between 18 and 95 so there is no excuse! Just give me a call!

Tel: 01432 840491 Mob: 07947 011707

Email: Alisonpilates2016@gmail.com

Or on Facebook

With the transfer Window now closed, many Liverpool fans were disappointed not to have got Bale, so it was back to the cells for them.



Arts and Crafts Space

Alternate Thursdays 2-4.30pm

Little Birch Village Hall

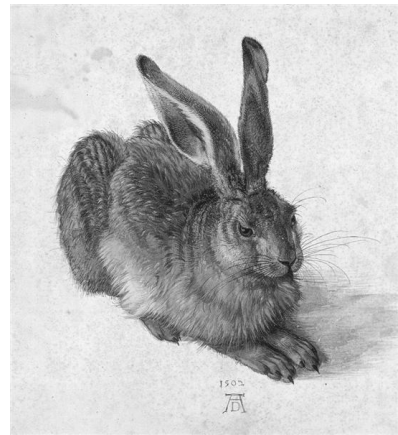
Everybody welcome. You can bring along anything you are working on.

Look forward to seeing you

Contact Sally for information

sally.nichol@btinternet.com 01981 540001

or mobile 07803 032928



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Items for April to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk
or paper copy to Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 by **18th March**

Little Birch Parish Councillors

Peter Rees Chair.

Janet Gwinnett Vice Chair,

Kate Dillon,

Michael Davies,

Kate Robbins,

Angela Middleton, Volunteer Footpath Officer,

Sophie Glover, Clerk 01432 617306

lbpcclerk@gmail.com

Website

www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

www.bgbuk.com

info@bgbuk.com



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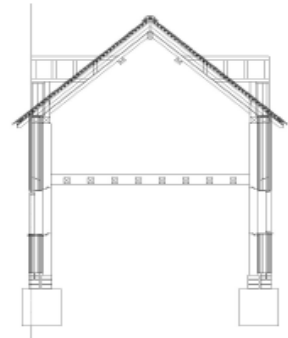
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9am to 7pm on Sunday

Our organic, grass fed Wagyu Cross beef has been born and raised at
Merrivale Farm. The Wagyu breed is known for its beautiful marbling
which gives a delicious flavour and texture to the meat.

Available in mixed boxes which start at £65.
Individual cuts and packs are also available.

Contact Lucy for more information on 07974 053804
or email lucymason@hotmail.com
Merrivale Farm Little Birch Hereford HR2 8BA

I Plucked the Berry by William Motherwell

I've plucked the berry from the bush, the brown nut from the tree,
But heart of happy little bird ne'er broken was by me;
I saw them in their curious nests, close couching, slyly peer,
With their wild eyes, like glittering beads, to note if harm were near:
I passed them by, and blessed them all; I felt that it was good
To leave unmoved the creatures small whose home is in the wood.

And here, even now, above my head, a lusty rogue doth sing,
He pecks his swelling breast and neck, and trims his little wing,
He will not fly; he knows full well, while chirping on that spray,
I would not harm him for a world, or interrupt his lay;
Sing on, sing on, blythe bird! and fill my heart with summer gladness,
It has been aching many a day with measures full of sadness!



How many Queen's Jubilees?

There have been four previous Jubilees, Silver, Golden, Diamond and Sapphire

Thanks to our joker
for making us laugh



Diary Dates

Parent and Toddlers Fridays 9.30-11.30 MBCH Page 5

Table Tennis Monday 28th February 7-9pm LBVH Page 3

Pancakes Evening 1st March 5.30-7.30pm LBVH Page 7

MBPC Meeting Thurs 3rd March 7.30pm MBCH P8

Church Services Page 3

Coffee and Books Thursday 3rd & Saturday 19th March 10-12 LBVH Page2

Flicks in the Sticks 8th March 7.30pm MBCH Page 2

Flicks in the Sticks 10th March 7.30 MBVH Respect Page 2

Art Space 10th & 24th March 2-4.30 Page 11

Community Café 12th March 10-12.30 MBCH Page 6

Parish Walk Sunday 13th March 1.45pm LBVH Page 5

History Group Talk Thursday 17th March 7.30pm LBVH Page 6

National Day of Reflection 23rd March Page 3

Village Market 25th March 2-4.30pm MBCH Page 7

Lent Lunch Friday 25th March 12.30 LBVH Page1

Community Spring Sing Saturday 26th March 2-5pm MBCH Page 1

Gardening Club 30th March 7.30pm LBVH Page 5

Easter Prize Bingo Friday 1st April 7.30pm LBVH Page 7

Advertising in The Birches Newsletter

Birches Newsletter is a great way of contacting local people. Your business is very important to us all. During Covid we have not asked for payment but from April unpaid business adverts will be removed from the Newsletter.

Please contact our editor, Elisabeth Taylor, editorial@birchesnews.org.uk to confirm that you wish to carry on with your advert, or change it if you would like to. **Thank you to all our advertisers. We hope you will continue to support the Birches Newsletter with your advertising.**

The rates for adverts remain the same

11 editions per year (no August newsletter)

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

1/8th 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 to be made via BACS through Santander

Account Name Little Birch Village Hall

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