

Newsletter for King's Thorn, The Birches & Aconbury

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

May 2017. First published 1977.. Happy 40!

The History of Cider Making at Weston's

Come and find out about the history of cider making by Weston's Cider at Much Marcle.

Richard Moyse from Weston's will give us an illustrated talk which will be followed by a tasting session accompanied by a ploughman's supper.

(Please no under 18s by Weston's request)

The talk will be at **Little Birch Village Hall on Thursday April 27th at 7.30.**

Entrance £5.00 to include ploughman's supper



Diary Dates

April 2017

- 26th Gardening Club LBVH
- 27th Cider Making talk LBVH
- 27th Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
- 28th Village Market MBCH
- 29th Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am

May 2017

- 4th MBirch Parish Council meeting MBCH
- 9th Whist Drive LBVH
- 12th Plant Sale Wickham Lodge LBirch
- 13th Arts Community Festival Garway Church
- 16th WI Meeting MBCH
- 18th Coffee Morning LBVH
- 21st Quiz Evening Castle Inn
- 23rd Flicks in the Sticks MBCH
- 26th Village Market MBCH
- 27th Book Exchange Methodist Chapel 10am
- 31st Gardening Club LBVH

Church Services April/May 2017



April 30th	10.30am LBirch CW Communion with Holy Baptism Benefice Service for Wormelow Hundred Group.
Sun. May 7th	LBirch 11am CW Communion 4th Sun of Easter
Sun May 14th	MBirch 09.15 Family Communion LBirch 11am Morning Worship
Sun May 21st	MBirch 09.15 CW Communion LBirch 11am BCP Communion
Thur May 25th	MBirch 09.30am Holy Communion for Ascension Day
Sun. May 28th	MBirch 09.15 Matins Llanwarne 11am CW Communion

The Monastery of Poor Clares at 11am every Sunday.
Holy Communion at Much Birch every Thursday at 9.30am.

Much Birch Church

Regrettably we have had to cancel the Coffee Morning with Plant and Cake stalls which had been arranged to take place on Saturday 13th May 2017 in Much Birch Community Hall

Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

The April draw took place on 16th April 2017 in Much Birch Community Hall at 10.30am and the results were as follows:

1 st prize – No 81	2 nd prize - No 74
Mr. Mrs. D. Wiseman	Mr. & Mrs. A. Morrison
King's Thorn	Much Birch

The next draw will take place on 14th May 2017 in Much Birch Community Hall.

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

—by 18th May please.

Local News May 17



A belated but very warm welcome is given to Becce and Jodie Marsh who have come to live in her grandfather's (the late Terry Mock) cottage on 'Ticklywithy' pitch. We trust that they will soon settle in and make new friends.

As reported last month, Percy Verry and Ruth Cook have died. Percy was born in Hereford in 1923 and lived most of his life on the Barrack Hill, first at the top, in the parish of Aconbury, then at the bottom and from 1943 in the cottage where he spent the remainder of his life.

Sadly his mother died when he was two years old when his brother, Arthur was born. He lived with his father, Herbert, and they had a housekeeper, Mrs. Webb. Percy bought his cottage in 1943 and was then called into the Army in 1944 as a driver in the Bomb Disposal Unit.

He served in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and finished up in Egypt. He said he didn't like the Egyptians as they pinched his lorry and he was fined £4 by the Army.

On demobilisation in 1945, he worked for Bob Reid at Lyston who had the contract for mowing the grass around the ordnance factory at Rotherwas. Bob and Connie Reid were good friends to Percy and brought round a cooked lunch on Fridays and one plated up for Saturday. After working for Bob, he worked more locally doing gardening and mowing lawns. He worked for many years for Miss Lawrence in planting vegetables and flowers.

Percy's best friend was Ivor Crum and went to the Castle Inn most nights to play Crib and have a swift half.

When Andrew Crum was born, Percy became godfather to Andrew, and he became 'one of the Crum family'. As, Samantha and Laura said in their tribute to Percy at his funeral Service at the Crematorium on Friday, 17th March.



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Percy was a true countryman and loved listening to and watching the birds. He was very fond of Vera Lynn's singing and the entry and exit songs were by this well known wartime artist.

Andrew and Gill and the family looked after Percy so well for many years and despite difficulties towards the end their care never wavered. In fact, he lived with them in their home

until they could cope no longer and Percy spent the last 6 months or so at Charnwood in Much Dewchurch, where the staff gave him excellent care. So we say farewell to another character who will be sadly missed by so many friends and acquaintances. He had a long life but was really never happy away from the Barrack Hill. We extend to Andrew and Gill and Samantha and Laura our deepest sympathies.

We are also sad to say that Ruth Cook of King's Thorn passed away on March 7th aged 90 years. Her funeral service was held at Hereford Crematorium on 21st. March and the tribute for her life was given by her niece, Bee Cullis. Ruth lived her life very quietly and had looked after her late husband, Donald, with great fortitude under difficult circumstances. She gave up driving some years ago and Derek and Mary Hill took her shopping to Belmont Tesco every Thursday. She was a very generous supporter of the Poppy Day Appeal. She will be missed by a wide circle of friends and we send to the Cullis family our sincere condolences.

Chris Savage of King's Thorn passed away on Tuesday 11th. April, just one day after his 65th birthday. He received wonderful care from his wife, Ping, and Dr. Seftel from Much Birch Surgery and the District Nurses from Belmont. The Palliative Care Nurse, Sue Horton, gave outstanding care in the hours leading up to his death. A fuller tribute to Chris will be given in May.

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APPROVED CONTRACTOR

Little Birch PCC would like to thank all those who supported the Lent Lunch on Friday, 7th April in Little Birch Hall in aid of Sightsavers International. A range of excellent soups had been prepared by the ladies and with cheese, celery and tomatoes and 'French Bread' or wholemeal bread everyone enjoyed the meal in a lovely atmosphere. Thanks to everyone for putting on this very worthwhile support for such a wonderful Charity, the result was £200.

Little Birch Village Hall Committee Newsletter notices for May 2017

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 9th May** 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 Book Exchange will be on the morning of **Saturday 27th May** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12pm**.

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

There is a charge of just £1 per adult towards the cost of the hire and refreshments.



Spring Concert

The Ridgeway Choral
www.ridgewaychorale.org.uk

A concert of short choral pieces, sacred and secular, serious and light-hearted, something for everyone.

Richard Grylls - Musical Director
John Merrick - Accompanist
Madeleine Morris - Cello

**St. Catherine's Church,
Hoarwithy,**

Saturday, 13th May 2017, 7.30 p.m.

Tickets **£8** (18 & under free).

From The New Harp Inn, Hoarwithy,
Reception, Breast Cancer Haven, Hereford,
on the door or phone 01989 218706

proceeds shared between
h.aven St. Catherine's Church,
Hoarwithy

Reg. Charity No. 1061726.

Little Birch & Aconbury's Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan

At the April meeting of the Steering Group Dr David Nicholson, our Consultant presented his revised version of the 'Housing Delivery Report'. This was based on the discussion by the Steering Group of the original report presented at the March meeting.

This has now been approved with minor amendments and he has been asked to progress to writing up a **Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan**. This document will then be delivered to every household in Aconbury and Little Birch for consultation.

For more information and to be kept up to date, or have notification of future meetings please contact Sophie Glover, Clerk to LB&A NDP Steering Group - littlebirchpccclerk@hotmail.co.uk

To follow the progress of Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Development Plan check out the website – www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org.

Air Quality on the A49 from John Kinross

2 Phials were put up on the A49 and Tump Lane to test the air quality. They had to stay up for 14 days and then be returned to the FOE lab. for analysis. On 31st March, as follows:- Nitrogen dioxide 12.2 on A49 and 12 microgrammes per cubic metre of air, in Tump Lane.

This compares to Central Bristol which shows 40 microgrammes per cubic metre of air.

The Singing Tree is an informal fun singing group that started its life in Much Dewchurch, moved with us to Garway and we are now meeting in Kingsthorpe since our move here in July last year. No auditions, no need to read music, just come along and enjoy yourself. We meet on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm at Wynds Poynt. For more information please contact Hilary on 01981 540022 the turning@phonecoop.coop

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St. George's Day

Poor old St. George! We forgot to put him in our Diary Dates for April. St. George's Day is 23rd April but that will have come and gone by the time you all read this. St George was a Greek Christian, born in Syria, and became **Patron Saint of England** in the Tudor Period, based on his popularity during the Crusades.

However his fame today is probably due to his slaying of a dragon. And in this area we have the magnificently carved **Aconbury Dragon – Idris**. He is carved from a single fallen oak and is nearly 8m long and weighs 1.5 tons.

His 'guardians' saw in the felled tree a dragon desperately trying to emerge. Local, highly respected, wood carver Steve Elsby had the vision too – and he knew how to handle a chain saw! Idris caused quite a traffic jam on the A49 in 2004, arriving in Aconbury on a tractor drawn trailer.

There's been a long tradition of dragon legends in the Marches, such as the Dragon of Mordiford, however the name Idris comes from 'Ivor the Engine'. Such is the power of the 'guardians' children. He has a terrifying roadside presence with that fierce face but he is really quite friendly – doesn't mind being stroked – but asks that he not be climbed or sat on. And likes photographers too – just don't ask him to smile for the camera!

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. Visitors and potential new members are always welcome. Please contact Sallie on 01432 340069 for further details.

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St Michael's Hospice Plant Fair
5th and 6th May 2017
Friday 11am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5pm

This inaugural event will be a celebration of springtime gardening. The Fair will take place in the Hospice gardens on the new terrace, a sun trap looking out onto beautiful views towards Haugh Woods.

A chance to browse and buy a wide range of plants grown by professional and amateur gardeners. Handmade birdhouses, trugs, honey and preserves will also be on sale.

Delicious two-course lunches (booking essential) and other refreshments available; please see our website for booking details. Pre-school craft activities will run on Friday; and school-aged children can take part in WildPlay sessions provided by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust on Saturday (11am-4pm).

For full details, visit www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk

Brian Hatton talk

On March 30th Robin Thorndyke came to talk to over 30 people about Brian Hatton with particular reference to "the Harrow and the Plough". Robin treated us to a fascinating story of Brian Hatton, our Herefordshire artist, who started winning prizes at the age of 9 painting pictures which most of us would be proud to paint at our age! He displayed his love of horses and farm animals in a number of real period pieces of a way of life now gone. Some of the paintings Robin showed were of the Gower where Brian was sent to live to recuperate from various childhood afflictions. Many of the paintings Robin showed had a luminosity about them which he said the originals did not always show – the wonders of modern technology! Brian later earned his living portrait painting in London before joining the army in 1914. He was only 27 when he was killed in WW1. Robin's talk was most enjoyable and much appreciated by all present.

King's Thorn and Little Birch Gardening Club

On Wed. April 26th, We will welcome back Mr D.G. Everitt who will give an illustrated talk on 'Lilies and Summer flowering Bulbs.

On Wed. 31st May, Alun and Jill Whitehead, who hold the National Collection of Siberian Irises and will give an illustrated talk on 'Irises for the Natural Garden'. This will be followed up with a visit to Aulden Farm on Wed. June 28th.

Everyone is welcome to attend Gardening Club Nights and hopefully, they will prove of interest so you might wish to join the Club. The fee is £10 per year.

For more details call John Bryant on 01981 540316.



BLACK KADDER

By kind permission of the BBC and authors
 Richard Curtis & Ben Elton

Little Birch Drama Group present

Blackadder II

(Bells, Head and Potato)

Limited seating, reserve your tickets now.

15th, 16th & 17th June at 7:30pm
 £10 including supper

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Jackie: 01981 541027

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Thursday 18 May 10:30am - 12:30pm
Little Birch Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who recently attended the enjoyable LBVH informal coffee morning.

Those who attended commented that they appreciated the opportunity to catch up with old friends, get to know new neighbours and meet interesting people who live in the area.

Looking ahead members of the community (all ages) are warmly invited to the next 'Community drop-in coffee morning' on Thursday 18 May 2017.

If you would like help with transport, please contact Margaret on 540374 and we will do our best to link you up with a fellow traveller with wheels!

We look forward to seeing you

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ARCHENFIELD ARTS COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Saturday 13th May 2017
 in Garway Church from 11.00 am till 5.00 pm

Refreshments available

This is your chance to have a go and do your turn.... singing, playing, reciting, reading, whatever you choose.... in front of a small friendly audience.

All ages welcome.

For all standards, experienced and beginners alike

Come along and enjoy the talents of local people

CONTACT

Hilary Smallwood 01981 540022
theturning@phonecoop.coop

Much Birch PC Meeting Dates for 2017

The 2017 dates for Much Birch Parish Council Meetings, all on Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30pm in the Community Hall:

May 4th June 8th July 6th September 7th October 5th
 November 2nd and December 7th

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JAZZ IN June

Music from Steve Constance & The Monnow Jazz Quartet
whilst you enjoy strawberries and fizz!

Saturday 10th June 2017

7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Much Birch Community Hall

Tickets £10, (to include strawberries and a glass of fizz) Children £5
Call 01981 540097 or 01981 540980 for tickets
Proceeds for Much Birch Community Hall Development

When I stood for election in May 2015 I promised to be as accessible as possible. Not everyone wants to attend Parish council meetings and I'm therefore holding a surgery in May where residents can pop in and have a chat over a cup of tea to discuss any issues they may have.

Tuesday 9th May between 6-7.30pm

Much Birch Village Hall

I am also available on email, phone, Facebook or I'm happy to meet up if you prefer...

Cllr David Harlow


David.Harlow@herefordshire.gov.uk : 07801 055 231

A reminder, please, that all new articles or advertising copy for inclusion in this Newsletter should now be sent to editorial@birchesnews.org.uk

Application for new advertising and rates should be directed to birchesnews@gmail.com

Yoga

In Much Dewchurch and Steiner Academy
Mondays 6.00—7.15



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FLICKS IN THE STICKS

at Much Birch Community Hall

Tuesday 23rd May - ALLIED 15

Romantic thriller starring *Brad Pitt* and *Marion Cotillard*. 1942, during World War II, intelligence officer Max Vatan (Pitt) is stationed in North Africa where he encounters French Resistance fighter Marianne Beausejour (Cotillard) on a deadly mission behind enemy lines. Reunited in London, their relationship is threatened by the extreme pressures of the war.

Refreshments including hot dogs available from 7pm.

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)

This is the last screening in our Spring Season - we return in September with more films.

Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets please email bryonyconnolly@hotmail.com or call 01981 540097

For further information about films and screenings visit www.artsalive.co.uk (online booking available)

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Open Gardens
supporting St Michael's Hospice




Llangrove Open Gardens

Saturday 17th June
12-5pm

Adults £5, children u12 free

Tickets can be purchased from Llangrove Village Hall
Teas will be served at the Village Hall in aid of St Michael's Hospice
Parking is available at the Village Hall
Assistance dogs only unless otherwise stated
Toilets available in the village

In beautiful upland countryside in southern Herefordshire, Llangrove is nestled between Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth. There are nine gardens just waiting to be explored.

For more information, contact the Hospice Fundraising Team on 01432 851 000 or email events@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk



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Little Birch Parish Council

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

Cllr Ben Roberts	Chairman	01981 540100	b3nroberts@gmail.com
Cllr Elaine Godding	Vice Chair	01981 540607	ecgodding@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Steve Naylor		01981 541323	steve.naylor5@btinternet.com
Cllr Mike Morley		01981 541027	morley04@globalnet.co.uk
Cllr Annette Wissler		Contact through the clerk	
Sandra Cameron	Volunteer Foot Paths Officer	01981 540397	shcameron@hotmail.co.uk
Sophie Glover	PC Clerk	01432 270499	littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk

The March meeting discussed the importance of The Castle public house to the village, saying how happy they were that it had reopened and how much they hoped that those parishoners who could, would make an effort to drop in there for a drink or a meal to show support. The Parish Council have listed the pub as a 'Community Asset', as an indication to how strongly they feel that it benefits the area, and they will look to continue this listing when it comes up for renewal early next year.

The Parish Council also heard of the work that the steering group is doing on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). They are keen to not only support the excellent work of this steering group, but also to encourage any parishoners who are free to attend the meetings.

The steering group is at a key stage of the NDP, and the PC would remind every one that if/when it is passed, the NDP will be the guide that Herefordshire Council planning department will use in any decisions about granting planning permission up until 2031.

Meeting Agendas are posted on the Parish notice board at least three days in advance and are also on our web site.

Mrs Sophie Glover, Little Birch Parish Clerk, The Orchard, Ridgehill, Hereford HR2 8AG

Website: www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org

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

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PARISH MEETING – at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th April at the Much Birch Community Hall.
The meeting heard about further progress on the Neighbourhood Plan from the Steering Group Chair.

DOG FOULING

The perennial problem of dog fouling in public places was again brought to the attention of the Parish Council. Allowing one's pet to foul on the pavement, or in open spaces, and then failing to clear it up is a seriously anti-social act. Dog mess can carry diseases that are harmful to humans and other animals. This is an appeal from the Parish Council, to all pet owners, to be considerate of the environment and of the health and welfare of others. **Please clean up after your pet(s).** Bagged pet waste may be placed in litter bins or taken home for safe disposal. Please do not leave bagged waste on the highway, pavement or in hedges.

Dates for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings are: 1 June; 29 June; 31 August; 28 September; 26 October; 30 November.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Meetings and these will be held, consecutively, on **Thursday 4th May 2017 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.

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

Cllr David Baldwin The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS baldwin79@btinternet.com Tel. 01981 541198

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>

South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247

Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT

West Mercia Police

Get in touch

101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime
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Where we work; South Wye SNT is based at South Wye Police Station, Goodrich Grove, Newton Farm, Hereford, HR2 7DB, we work around the areas of Rural: Aconbury; Allensmore; Ballingham; Bolstone; Callow; Dewsall; Dinedor; Garway; Grafton; Harewood; Haywood; Hentland; Holme Lacy; Kenderchurch; Kentchurch; Kilpeck; Kingstone; Little Birch; Much Birch; Little Dewchurch; Llandinabo; Llanwarne; Lower Bullingham; Much Dewchurch; Orcop; Pencoyd; Pontrilas;

Your team

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