



THE *Birches*

Community Matters

NEWSLETTER FOR KINGSTHORN, MUCH BIRCH
LITTLE BIRCH, ACONBURY & WORMELOW

First published 1977 **April 2021**

A note from the Editorial Team.

Well, this has been year we are not likely to forget in a hurry!

Although I think most of us would like to forget it as soon as possible.

But things are looking up, on all fronts. The vaccine “rollout” is coming on apace in the UK, the weather is improving and things are growing in the gardens again. So “chin up” everyone!

We have had some wonderful contributions again this month and hope that you enjoy reading about what is happening in our Community.

With any luck (!) we will soon be able to go out and meet those people—and our other friends and family.

*Best wishes to all
Editor*



Mummy. Why is it sheep and not sheeps?

And fish not fishs?

No idea! Baaaah
Ask your Father

The Birches Camera Club and Photography Group....



.... have sent us some lovely Spring photos which, like the flowers, spring up all over this publication!

For further information about the group please contact.....

Sally Nichol at sally.nichol@btinternet.com

.....
Also—putting in a guest appearance—are some drawings courtesy of the Editor’s 7 year old Granddaughter, Phoebe, who is very into dragons at the moment.

And I have no idea, either, why the dragons have fish tails. But what I do not know about a 7 year old’s logic would fill a book.



Nichola Salter

Much Birch Surgery

The Covid vaccine rollout is progressing at a pace and 55% of the practice's adult population have now received a first dose. All patients aged over 50 are now being invited.

As required by the NHS, the Practice is prioritising invites to patients in the age 16-64 at-risk group in age order starting from age 64. The Practice will contact you by Text or phone call to book an appointment. If you receive a text invite from the practice and you have either already had it or are already booked elsewhere, please reply to the text and select one of the available options to update us.

If you are age 50+ or are in an at risk group you are also entitled to book a vaccination at one of the local mass vaccination sites either online at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19 or by calling 119.

The NHS has also launched a new national text message service for COVID-19 vaccination invitations. People receiving these text messages will be invited to book their vaccination online at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19 uk](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19-uk) or by calling 119, for an appointment at a local mass Vaccination Centre or pharmacy-led site. The text message will be sent using the Government's secure Notify service. They will appear as being sent from **NHSvaccine**. These text messages are in addition to those which are currently being used by some hospitals and local GP-led vaccination services.

2nd dose vaccinations will normally be given between 11 & 12 weeks after the first. If you attended the Surgery or the vaccination centre in Ross on Wye for your first vaccination, you can expect to hear from us to book your 2nd dose, approximately 10 weeks post first dose. Patients attending the mass vaccination sites will be given their 2nd dose date at the time of booking their 1st dose.

To help support the practice, whilst we manage our biggest vaccination programme ever, patients are advised that for minor ailments you can look online at <https://www.online-consult.co.uk/org/much-birch-surgery> first and consider what self-care measures you could take. It will really help to take the pressure off the practice staff and GPs. For more worrying complaints, patients are encouraged to contact the surgery - we are here for you as we have been throughout this pandemic.

Website: <https://www.muchbirchsurgery.co.uk/website/M81024/files/newsletter.pdf>

Facebook: [Much Birch Surgery Patient Information Page](#)



Flicks in the Sticks Update
Unfortunately Flicks will not be returning just yet - we plan to return in the new year - watch this space for updates.
If you have suggestions of films you would like us to screen in the future you can email them to muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com
Much Birch Flicks Team

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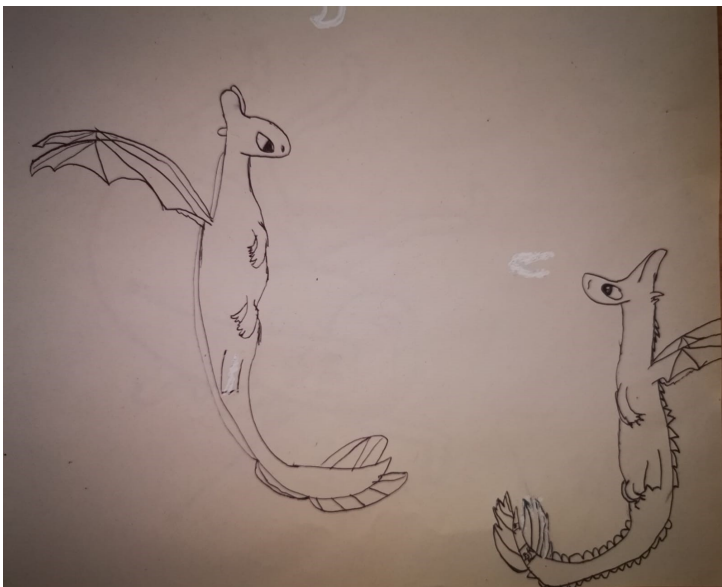
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Much Birch Church

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Wednesday 21st April 2021 in Much Birch Church at 7.30pm, with masks to be worn and social distancing to be observed.




**CASTLE INN TAKEAWAY
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Is happy to announce that HOT and COLD food will be made available for collection, as from the beginning of APRIL.

Look for Facebook page Castle Inn Country Pub for announcements coming soon.
A New email address will be available shortly.
For info please feel free to ring:- Dee on 07717 821203 or 01981 540231.
Authentic Stone Baked Italian Pizzas`,
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Homemade Lasagne, etc.
Also Grazing boxes, English Tapas (?), Homemade Indian and Chinese cuisine. Vegan, Vegetarian, and a Children's choice will be available also.
Pre-ordering preferred.
Opening time for collections and full Takeaway Menu TBA ASAP.

Dee Lawley



Minute Secretary needed.

Much Birch PCC is desperately looking for a volunteer Minute Secretary for their meetings. As a general rule there are 4 meetings a year plus 1 APCM. You do not necessarily have to attend regular services and all other issues will be dealt with by a PCC Secretary. If you are able to help would you please contact Sylvia Jones

tel:01981 540980 or email:
john.sylvia.jones@gmail.com

In a small town there are two barbers.
One is excellent at his job, keeps a clean salon and charges reasonable prices.

The other is a terrible barber, his place is filthy and he charges exorbitantly.

However, there is one man in the town who always goes to the bad barber

Why?



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Tip 3 - April 2021 - Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

Continuing our discussion from February about password security, I would now like to look at Multifactor Authentication (MFA).

What is Multi-factor Authentication?

It is about **layers of security**. When you log-in to an online account, you usually use a form of identity, such as your email, plus a password (strong, long, and unique!). A password is a **single-factor authentication**, and its days are numbered as a sole means of security. We have all heard stories of leaked passwords!

Online Banking - Enter 2 Factor Authentication (2FA) sometimes called 2-STEP verification

You may have already come across this when you log-in to an internet banking site (online banking) or similar. You enter a username, and a password. Then, you probably complete a further security step, as defined by your bank. This could be a one-off text message sent to you at the exact moment of log-on, or you may have to supply a few characters from a long passphrase, or you may have a small portable device from your bank, which generates a unique code for you, in conjunction with your Debit Card.

This is 2FA – exactly two factors, and clearly better than just a password.



Multi-factor Authentication (MFA)



Strictly speaking, 2FA as mentioned above, is a subset of MFA, but not every MFA has only two authentication factors. To understand MFA, it can be helpful to think of MFA as using at least 3 authentication factors.

The problem is that not all websites offer all the various methods, so your choices may be limited. However, it is important to use any offered additional steps.

Examples of authentication factors:

Something the user has: Some physical object in the possession of the user, such as a security token (USB stick), a bank card, a key, etc.

Something the user knows: Certain knowledge only known to the user, such as a password, PIN, TAN, etc.

Something the user is: Some physical characteristic of the user (biometrics), such as a fingerprint, eye iris, voice, typing speed, pattern in key press intervals, etc.

Somewhere the user is: Some connection to a specific computing network or using a GPS signal to identify the location.



One good way to increase your layers of security is to use an **Authenticator App**. There are several available; the one I use is Google Authenticator. This article on Wikipedia explains more: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Authenticator

Call Mark Giles, **Hereford Computer Help** on 01432 268883 for a friendly chat about how I can provide computer help, technical support, and training.

Little Birch Village Hall Renovations

Bob, Peter and many others are doing a fantastic job renovating Little Birch Village Hall

An update of what has been happening at the hall over the last few weeks below.



1. We were joined by some volunteers who cleared all the areas outside between the hall. They also sorted some growth into the septic tank and reset the lid to it. This has highlighted an issue with the runoff drain from it, but we are speaking with a contractor to resolve this.
2. Another couple of volunteers helped inside the hall with putting cabinets together for the new kitchen. Nearly all base units done.
3. Salvaged wall cabinets put up in bar area.
4. All electrics finished.
5. Dressing room finished ready for plastering.
6. Concrete poured under floor into void to make area under kitchen good. We were able to get enough under to reinforce and support the floor, which hopefully will mean it won't drop any more.
7. Concrete floor in hall where it was broken up by the stage removed completely and re-laid.

Next week we plan to

1. Finish screed to the floor in the back and corridor.
2. Put down vinyl flooring in kitchen.
3. Box in electrics.
4. Start to install kitchen base units and plumbing etc.

At the moment we are on target for big clean up end of April and getting hall ready to open for elections etc.

Quick update from yesterday's activities.

Finished off the base cabinets and tall units that were left from last week. Flooring sized and fitted in the kitchen area.

Screed all down now in all areas that needed it.

Base units all positioned and plumbing 3/4 done for new positions.

Next week, we will fix base units and finish plumbing, plus make up wall units and try to get them up, ready for work surfaces etc.

We are hoping 3 weeks and the team will be able to move everything back into cupboards and free up the hall space again.

If we need to we can finish fitting of doors etc. after this stage as well as tile it out and paint the back areas.

If you have a few spare hours and are interested in helping your community facility to be reopened later in 2021 looking much smarter then please get in touch with Bob Barnett on 540898.



If you are interested in the role of the committee then please contact our Chair;

Ben Roberts on 07702 760789



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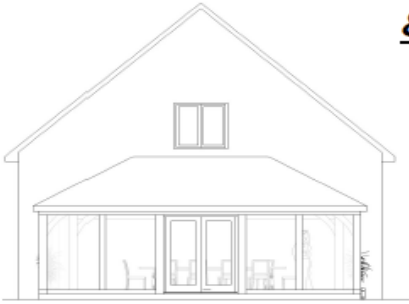


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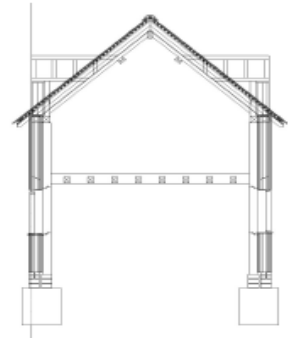
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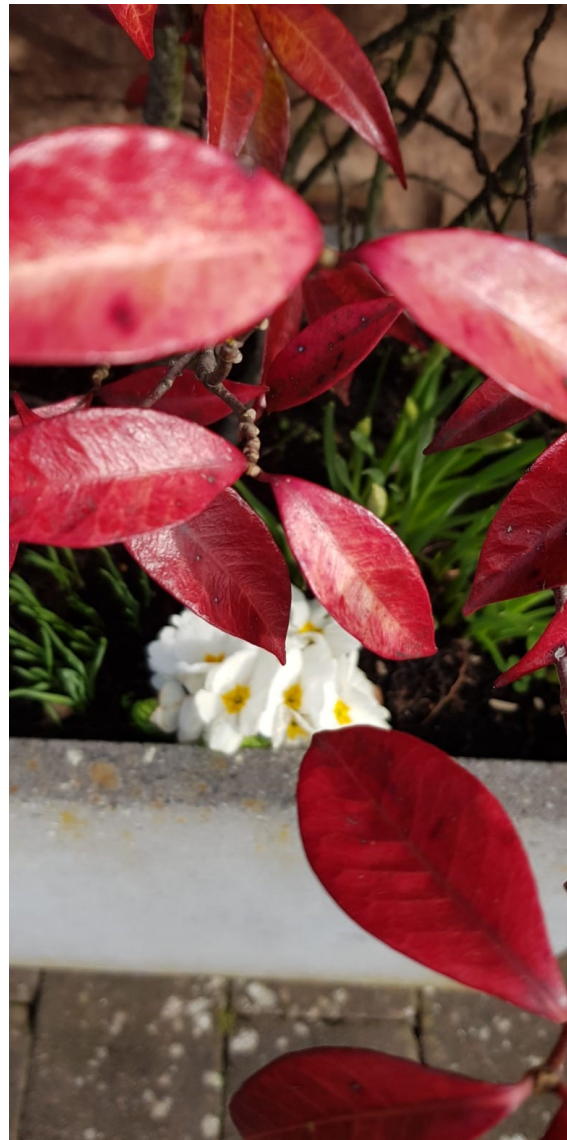
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Angela Pickering - Grey

Little Birch Parish Council

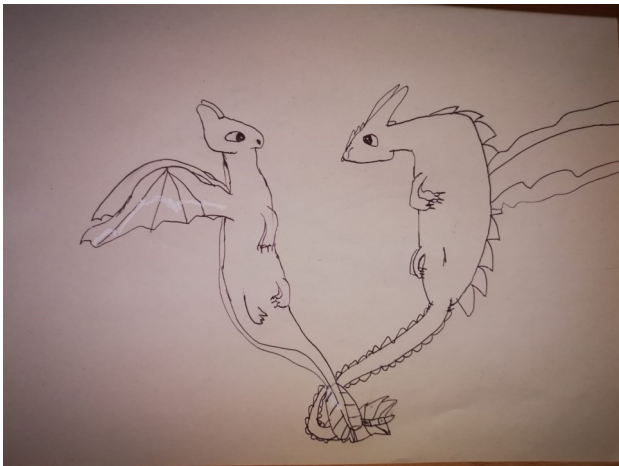
Your Little Birch Parish Councillors are:

Cllr Peter Rees Chair
Cllr Janet Gwinnett Vice Chair
Cllr Kate Dillon
Cllr Michael Davies
Cllr Kate Robbins
Angela Middleton Volunteer Footpath Officer
Sophie Glover Clerk 01432 617306

For updates and notifications of future meetings
please check out the website –
www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org.

lbpcclerk@gmail.com

Please send copy for the May 2021 Newsletter to
editorial@birchesnews.org.uk or written contributions to Liz
Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2 8AW.
—by 18th April please.



Tricia Evans 8

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

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with Alison Allan

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If you are unsure about how to get started or want to ask any questions, I am happy to help.

Just give me a call!

01432 840491

07947 011707

Alisonpilates2016@gmail.com

Pilates with Alison Allan on Facebook.

Spring Cleaning the Birches

Through February and March individuals, families and friends have been regularly clearing litter. Dylan and Sophie Morgan reflect on their experience.



"Litter picking makes me happy and proud of myself because we are helping the community. I sometimes feel unhappy because they're throwing their rubbish all over the place and if you want a world with animals in it, you must stop littering! It can be frustrating when you pick up litter one day only to see it back there the next day. The most unusual items we have found is a towel, a man's boot and a lorry wing mirror, it was huge. If I could have any super power, I'd wish that I could change peoples minds, to make them stop littering and to be more responsible." Dylan Morgan age 9.

"Having lived in the village for 8yrs and walking the A49 daily to take my children to school it always comes to my attention the amount of litter accumulating along the verges and footpaths. So when I was made aware about the volunteer litter picking initiative my family and I were very keen to help out.

Throughout the pandemic and lockdowns we have all been out on our daily walks and it's shocking at how much more litter has appeared. Some has obviously been thrown from vehicles purposely, some possibly scattered from skip lorries and bin refuse lorries (having seen this for ourselves today as the rear of the vehicle scattered litter throughout the air and back across the road and verges!)

There is very much a proud sense of satisfaction filling the purple bags, knowing that we are doing our bit for our community. The beeps from the vehicles, people waving from within and the kind community gestures have been very much appreciated.

It's very much addictive and we can't go anywhere now without one of us pointing and shouting "Litter!!"

The satisfaction is somewhat tinged with sadness and frustration when you walk along the same routes in the following days only to find somebody couldn't be bothered to take their cigarette packets home or dispose of their fast food wrappers properly.

We shall however continue to do our bit and would highly recommend others to get involved too."

Sophie Morgan

If you would like to get involved with clearing litter you can borrow litter picking sticks and get rubbish bags to do your own litter pick or join a socially distanced group litter pick. Look out for posts of group litter picks on Much Birch Facebook Group. Contact Elisabeth Taylor 07854 629193 email: et@myphone.coop

Photo: Dylan and Owen Morgan have been busy litterpicking!

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commentator... A few of his best “gaffs”**

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"You can cut the tension with a cricket stump."

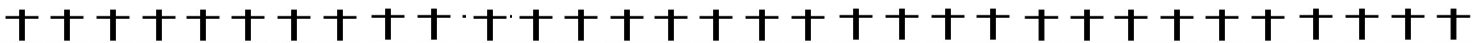
"With half the race gone there is half the race to go."

"IF is a very long word in Formula One; in fact, IF is F1
spelled backwards."

"I imagine the conditions in those cars are totally
unimaginable."

"Even in five years time, he will still be four years younger
than Damon Hill."

"Either that car is stationary or it's on the move."



Hi Everyone,

Every year the church remembers the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, his final meal with his disciples, his betrayal, trial, crucifixion, burial and resurrection. This journey through Holy Week and into Easter has lost its hold on the popular imagination. These days it is all chocolate and Bank Holidays!



Despite its commercialisation that is perhaps less than the take over of Christmas, Easter still represents a very important part of the year. Spring is here! Time to get out into the garden!

With Covid-19 though, the story of those last 7 days has a new resonance. We know what it is like to feel despair. As the death toll rose daily, fell and then rose again, we knew that what we were witnessing, what we were taking part in was different. Those figures on our TV screens each night represented a family that was plunged into darkness, a nurse or doctor who felt the loss personally as another of their patients lost the fight. Surely, it could not last for ever?

There is good news, the pandemic is slowing, retreating. Vaccinations have brought us hope. There is light at the end of the tunnel and it is not an oncoming train! The disciples went through such wild swings of emotion for the joy of Palm Sunday and the proclamation that Jesus was King, to the despair of sunset on the Friday when all seemed lost to the barely believable hope that Jesus had risen from the dead, the actually seeing him and hearing him in that upper room.

Holy week has a special resonance for us this Easter, as we also walk that path through despair and into the new light, the new hope. Let us work together to make the new normal one that is better for all parts of our society, our country and our world.

Thanks

Revd Mark

Revd Mark Johnson
Rector - Wormelow Hundred Benefice

&

Prebend de Bullinghope



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

10th March 2021

PARISH MEETING - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the Zoom Platform, during the Covid 19 Virus pandemic, on the 4th March 2021 from 7.30 pm.

The Parish Council heard further updates about the issues with phosphate pollution of the watercourses, and the impact this was having on house building in the north of the county, from the Ward Councillor.

There was also an update from the Ward Councillor about a great deal of litter picking that had taken place around the area. Please remember to take your litter home, or dispose of it properly, to help avoid the requirement for others to pick up your litter and in order to help keep the parish clean and tidy!

The Parish Council discussed two planning applications. They heard representations from residents concerning a planning in principle application, number 210025, for land at the South Herefordshire Hunt Kennels, Wormelow. This was for permission in principle for between 2 and 9 dwellings with package treatment plant. Comments would be submitted to the Planning Authority.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 8th April 2021 from 7.30pm** - on the Zoom Platform. All are welcome to attend.

Dates for 2021 Parish Council Meetings are as follows:- April 8, May 6, June 3, July 8, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2.

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

Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-

- Cllr Alison Cook (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail thecooks@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 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
- Cllr Veronica Thomas 4, Queens Close, Wormelow, Hereford, HR2 8FD Tel. 01981 540646 (no e mail)

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>



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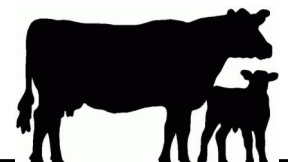


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ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK UNDERTAKEN

**Community Café
@ Much Birch Community Hall**

We had hoped that the Community Café might be up and running again by now, but here we are in another lockdown so we will have to wait!

In the meantime, if anyone is struggling with shielding or isolating and needs help collecting prescriptions or shopping, please ring Kay on 01981 540666 and she will ask one of us to help.

And if all you need is a chat on the phone, that's fine too!



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



Carline Pritchard



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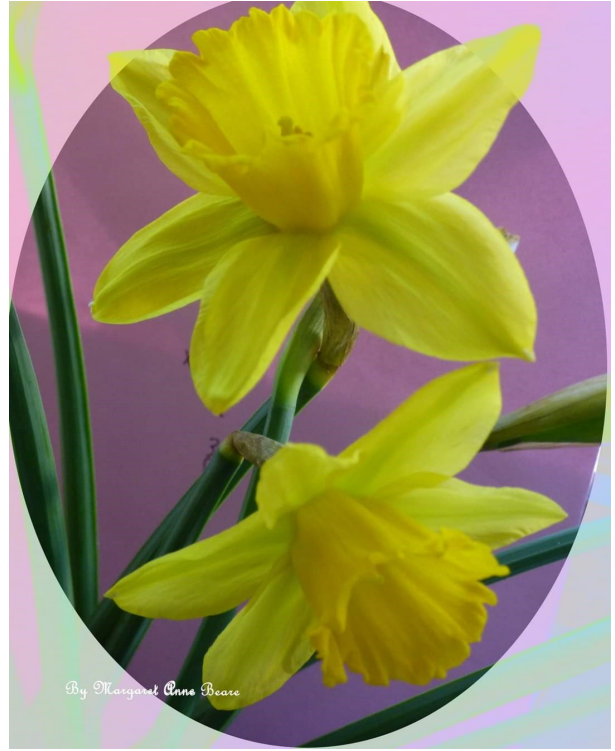
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Friendly and reliable, chartered Architectural Practice based in Wormelov.

All Architectural work undertaken. General advice; Planning



What's cooking at Merrivale Farm?

During what has been a very tough year for everyone, I have been fortunate enough to be able to keep on baking - mainly deliveries to Carrot and Wine, Wormelow and also private orders too. I provide homemade cakes for the Simply Stunning Café so am looking forward to baking for them again. I specialise in the simple, classic cakes being Victoria, Chocolate, Lemon, Coffee and Carrot. These are all available in different sizes, as Gluten Free and with free delivery to the surrounding area. I will also be providing fresh, homemade cakes available to buy from the milk vending machine that will be up and running at Merrivale Farm later in the year.

I run a Pop Up Café in Little Dewchurch Village Hall on the first Saturday of each month to coincide with the Much Birch Community Café that runs on the second Saturday every month and that I know we're all desperate to visit once again when we're able to.

The Pop Up Café will be returning to Little Dewchurch on 3rd July, 10am to 12 noon. We held the first one just over a year ago so hasn't quite had the start it needed but the few that have been able to run have been a great success. It has given the local community a great meeting point to catch up with friends and family over a cuppa and a slice of cake. It is always open to the wider community so please pop along and say hi- it will be lovely to see you.

Emily Mason



Emily's CAKES AND BAKES
Sponge cakes for all occasions

Emily Mason

Merrivale Farm
Little Birch, Hereford
07966 458961
emilyfranklin1@aol.com

Delicious homemade, classic sponges, scones and cupcakes.
Freshly made to order.
Free delivery within the area

Email self correct..... Who needs it?



Messagesorted some growth into the septic tank and reset the lid to it. This has highlighted an issue with the runoff drain from it, but we are going to get this sorted with a contractor.

Reply..... Bit worried about the septic tank. Does it not believe in what it is doing?

